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SPIDER-MAN

BEHIND the MASK

LEONARDI
WILLIAMS

Stan Lee presents:

Mother's Day

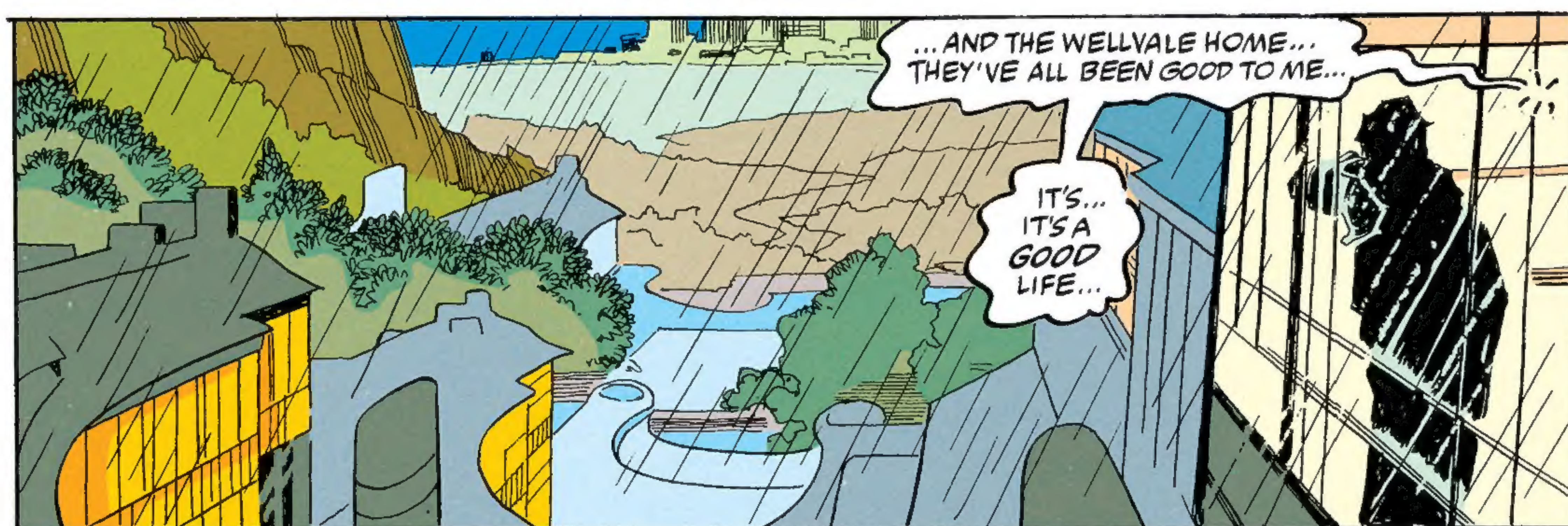
PETER DAVID
WRITER
RICK LEONARDI
PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON
INKER
STEVE BUCCELLATO
COLORING
RICK PARKER
LETTERING
JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
SURGEON GENERAL

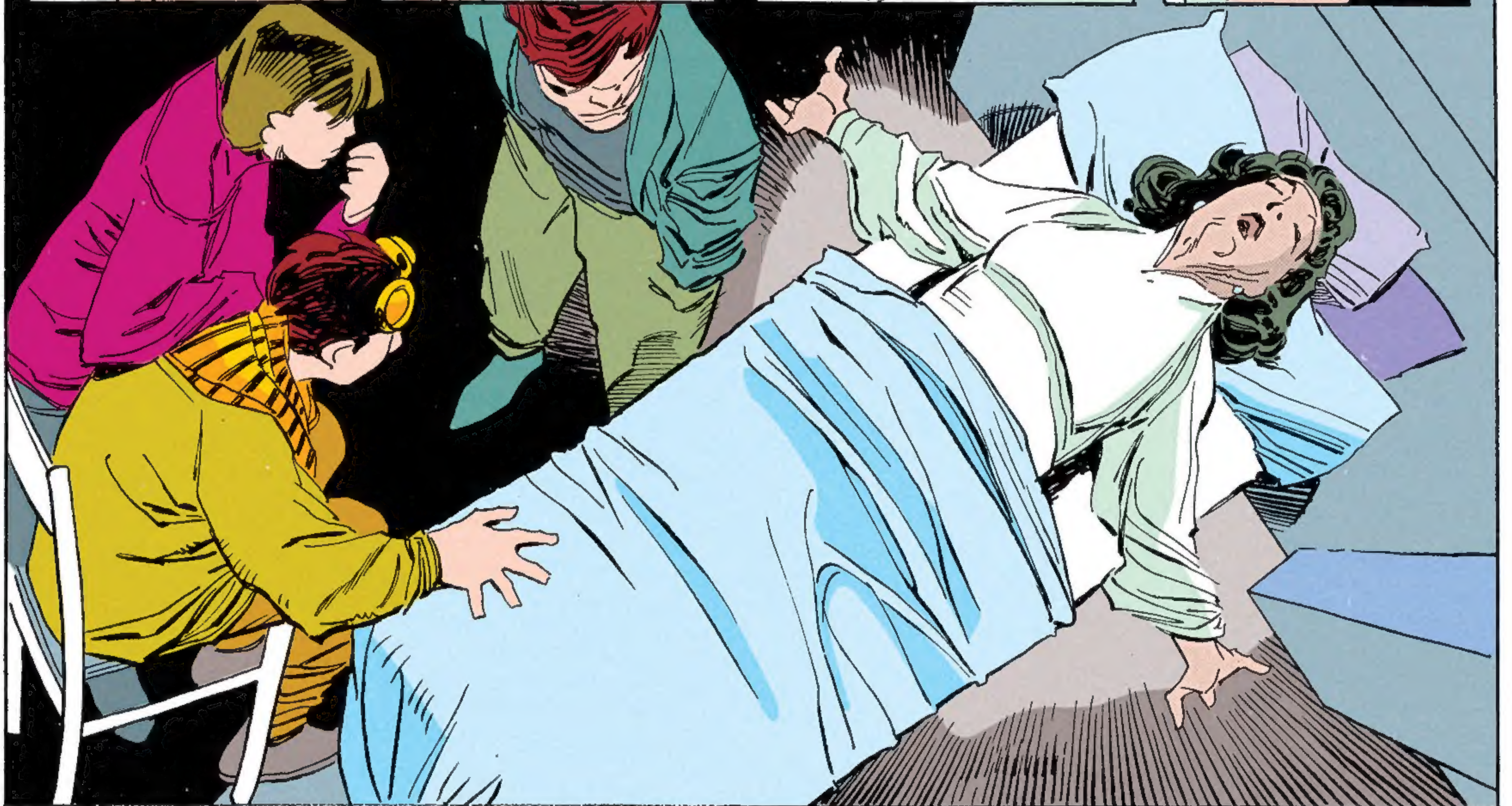
GABRI... ARE... ARE
YOU THERE...

SO... HARD
TO SEE...

YEAH,
MA,
I'M HERE.

MIGGY'S
HERE, TOO.
AND DANA.
WE'RE ALL
HERE.

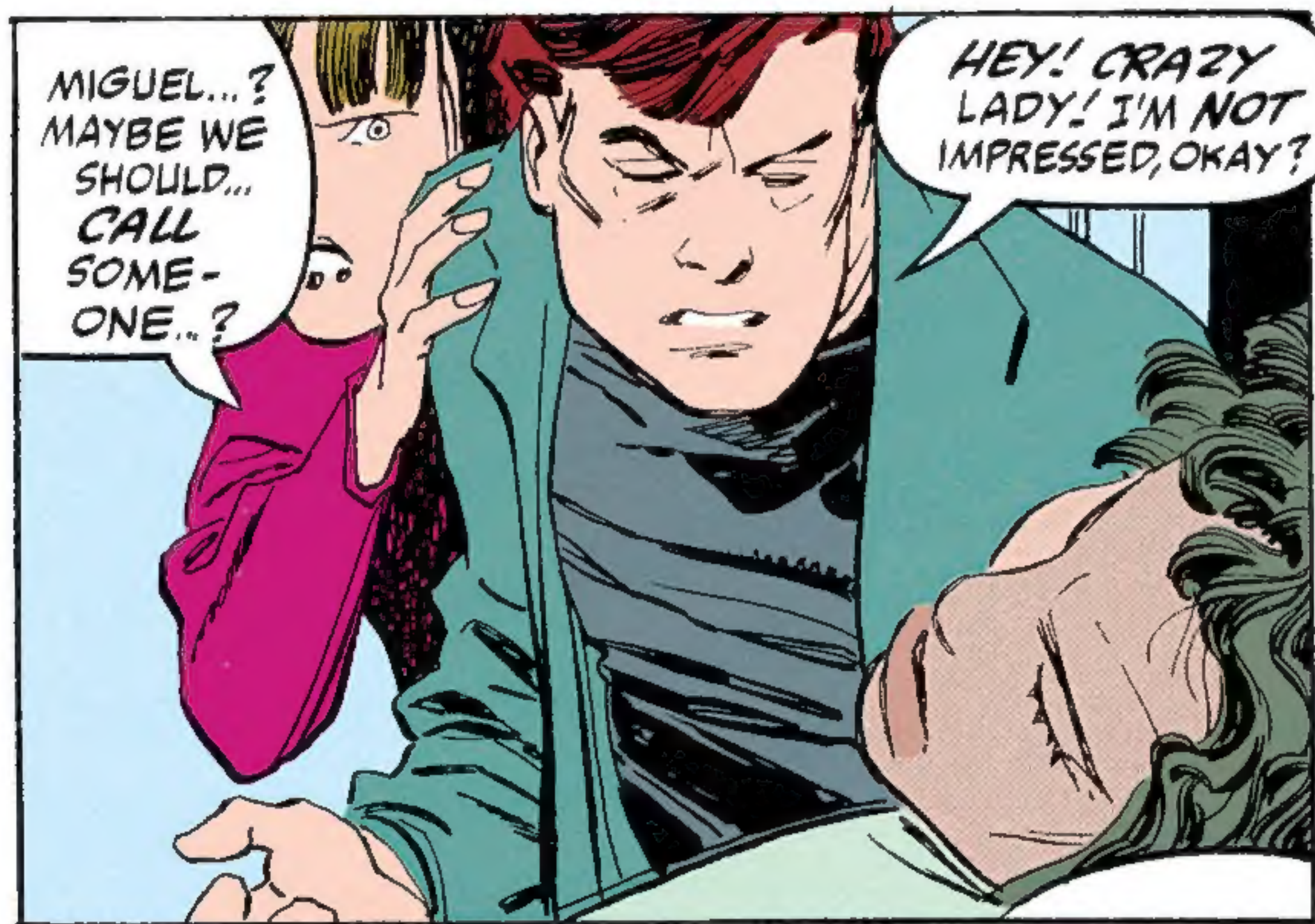






MA...

MA, KNOCK IT OFF. YOU'RE UPSETTING DANA.



MIGUEL...? MAYBE WE SHOULD... CALL SOME-ONE...?

HEY! CRAZY LADY! I'M NOT IMPRESSED, OKAY?



YOU'RE NOT DEAD! OKAY?

I could be.



THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

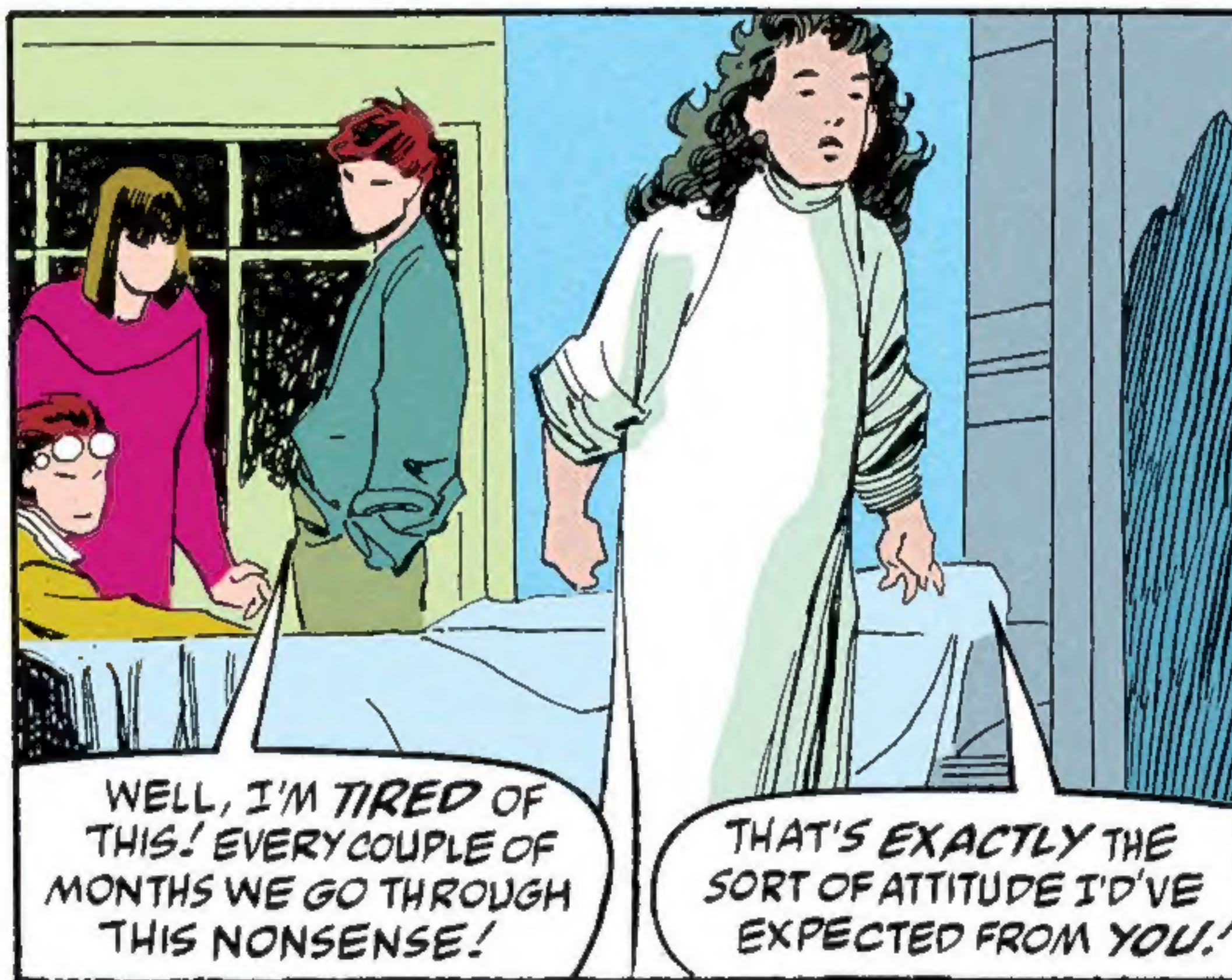
YES, IT IS.

NO! IT'S NOT!



OH, THIS IS MORONIC!

AW, GO EASY ON HER, MIGGY.



WELL, I'M TIRED OF THIS! EVERY COUPLE OF MONTHS WE GO THROUGH THIS NONSENSE!

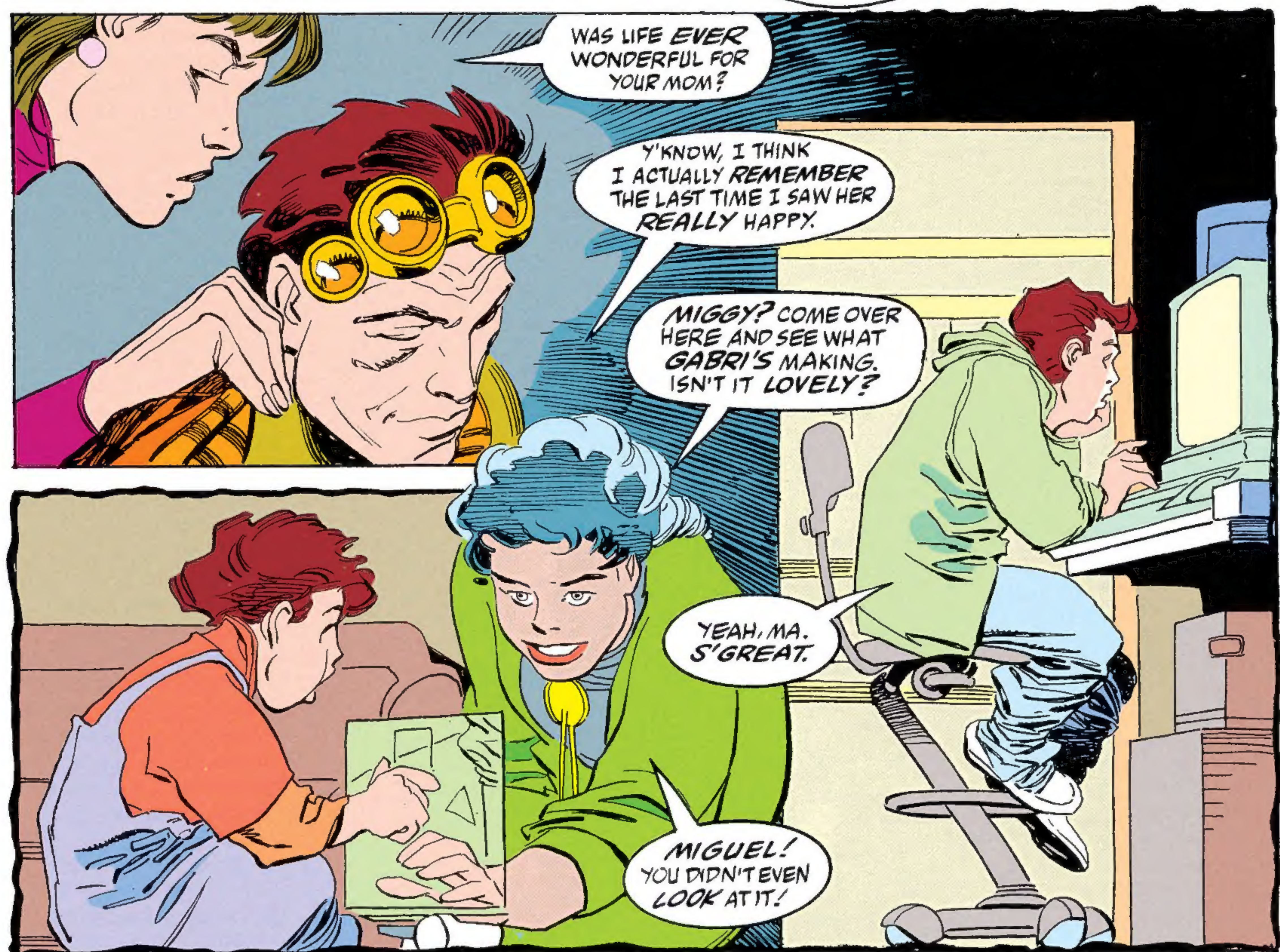
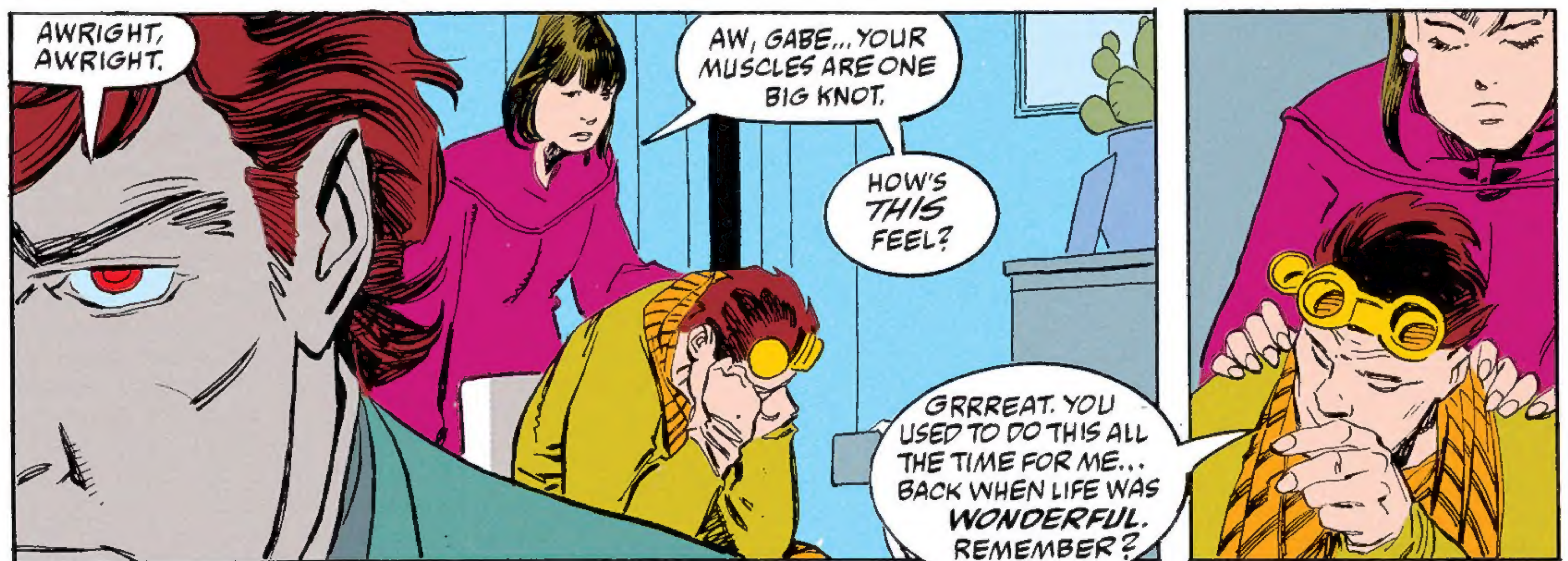
THAT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF ATTITUDE I'D'VE EXPECTED FROM YOU!

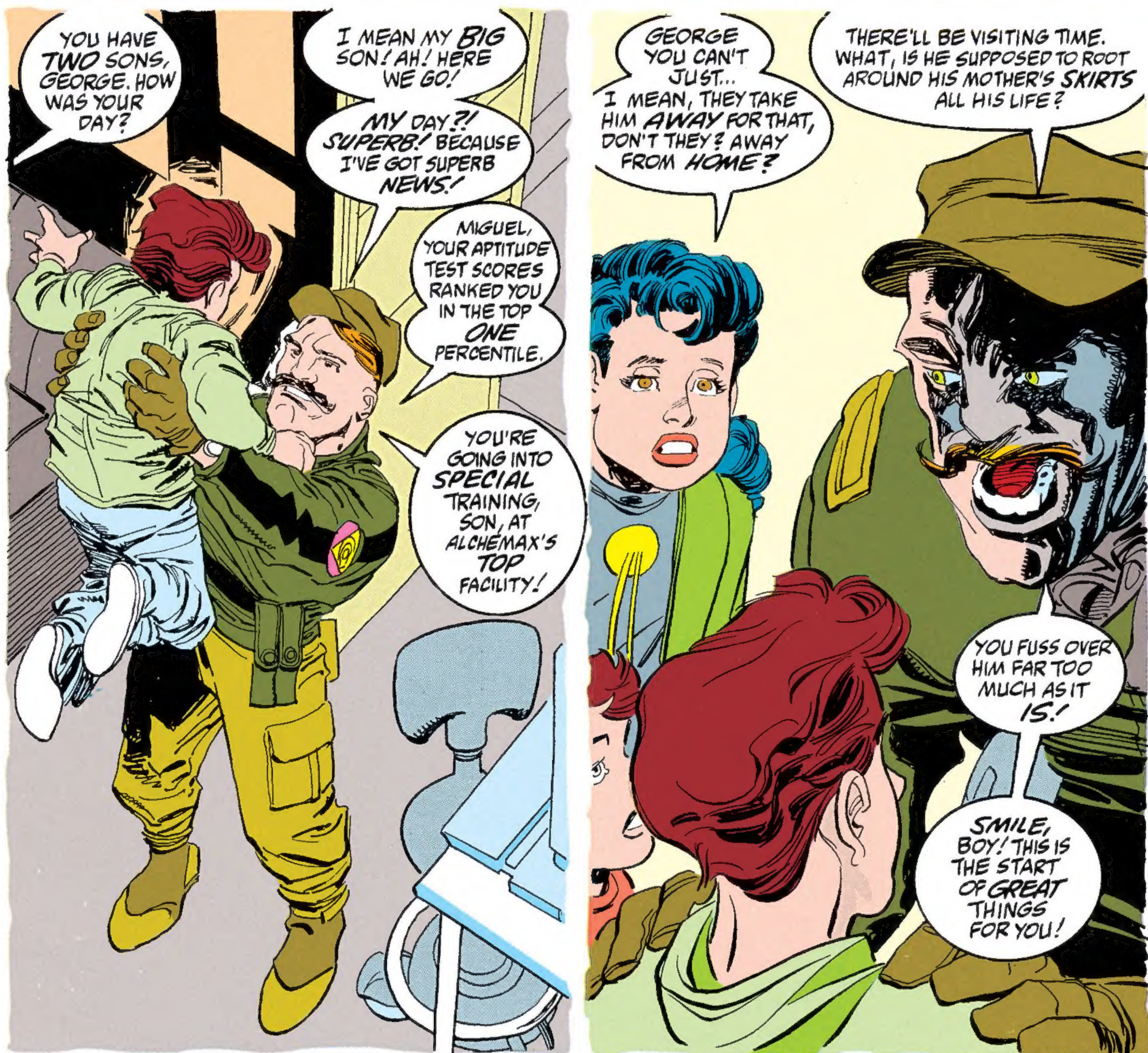
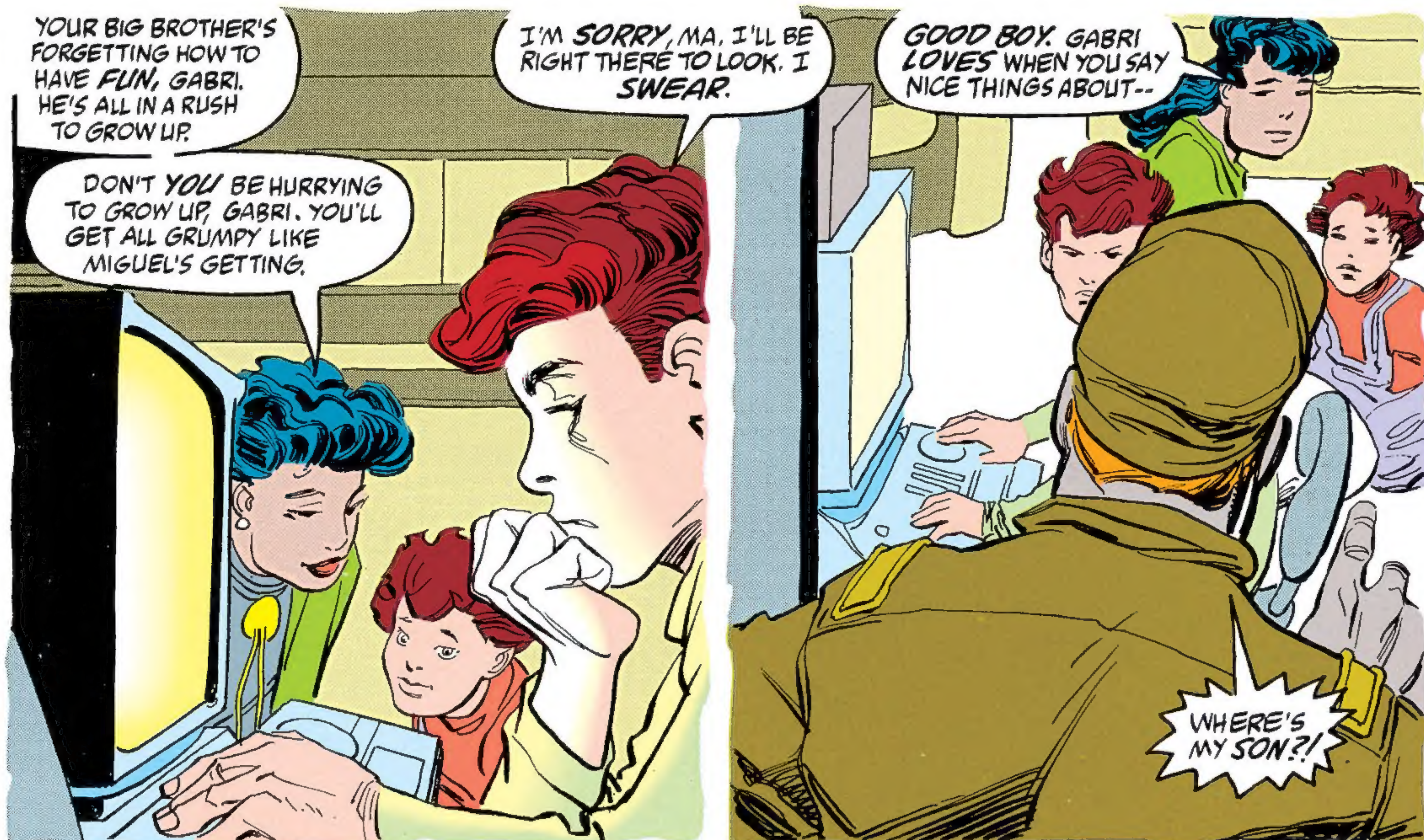


GO TALK TO HER.

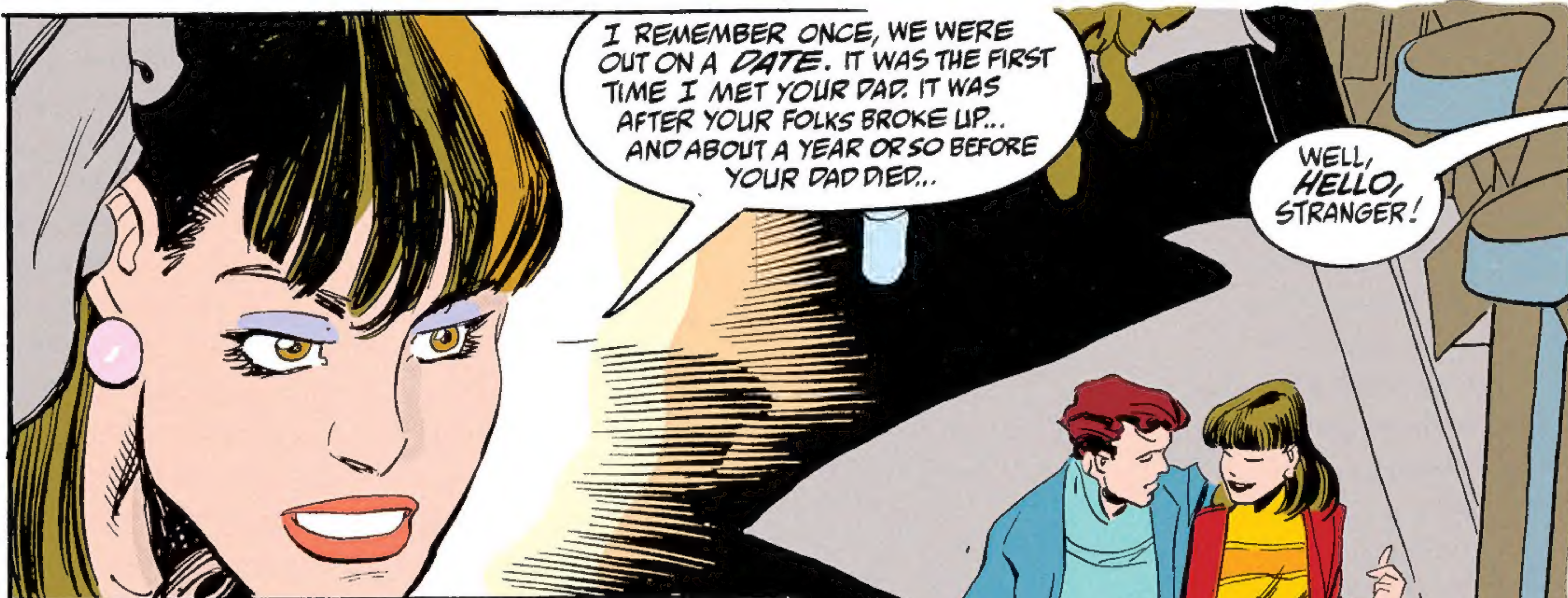
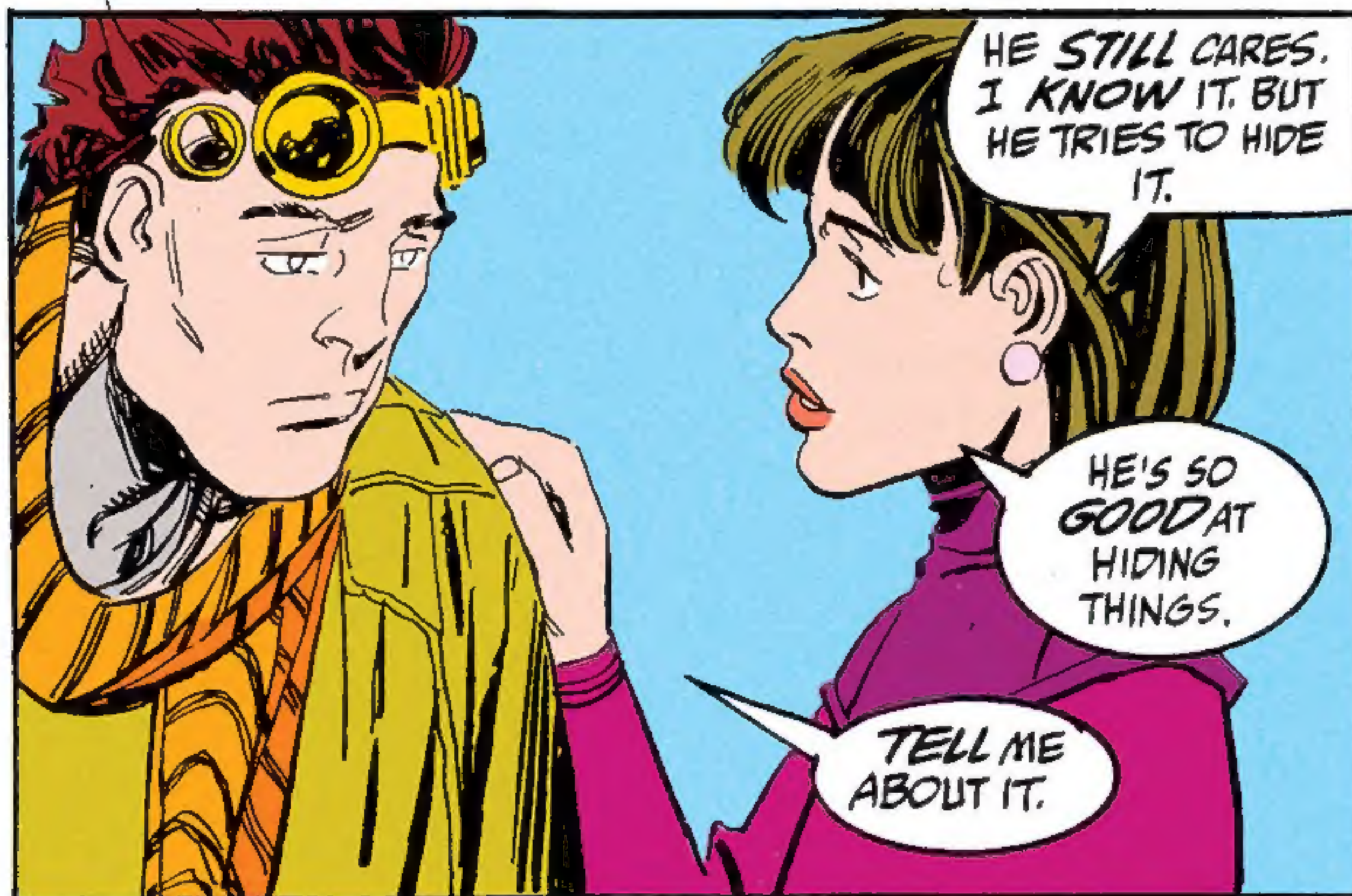
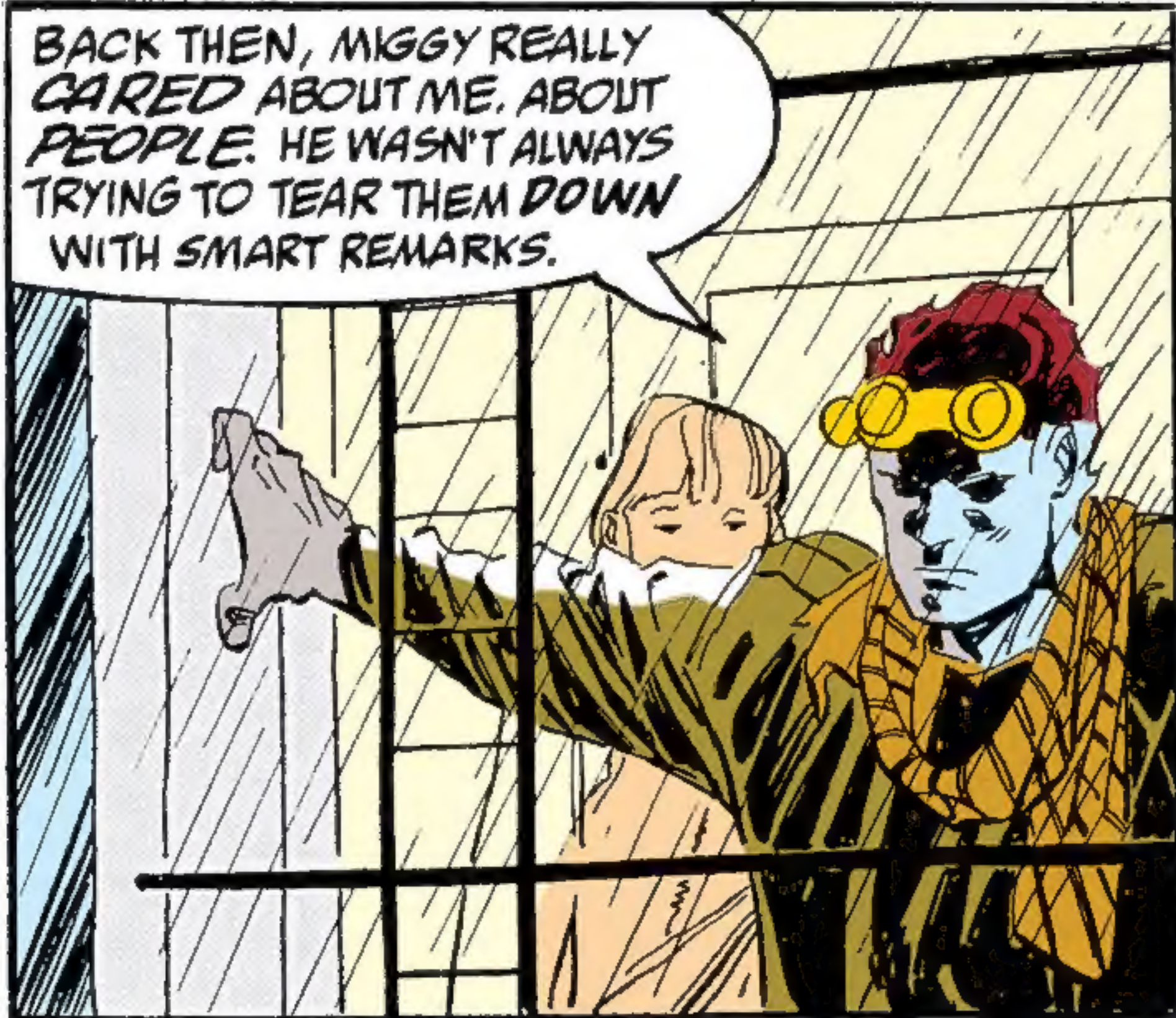


ME?! WHY ME?! SHE HATES ME! SHE'S ALWAYS HATED ME BECAUSE I REMIND HER OF DAD!











THAT'S WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, OLD MAN. I'VE GROWN UP A LITTLE SINCE THEN.

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.

SO I HEAR YOU'RE GETTING REMARRIED, DAD. GOING TO MAKE SOME OTHER WOMAN SO CRAZY THAT SHE CHECKS OUT OF REALITY, YOU SICK--

MIGUEL!



MR. O'HARA, MIGUEL'S SORRY. HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

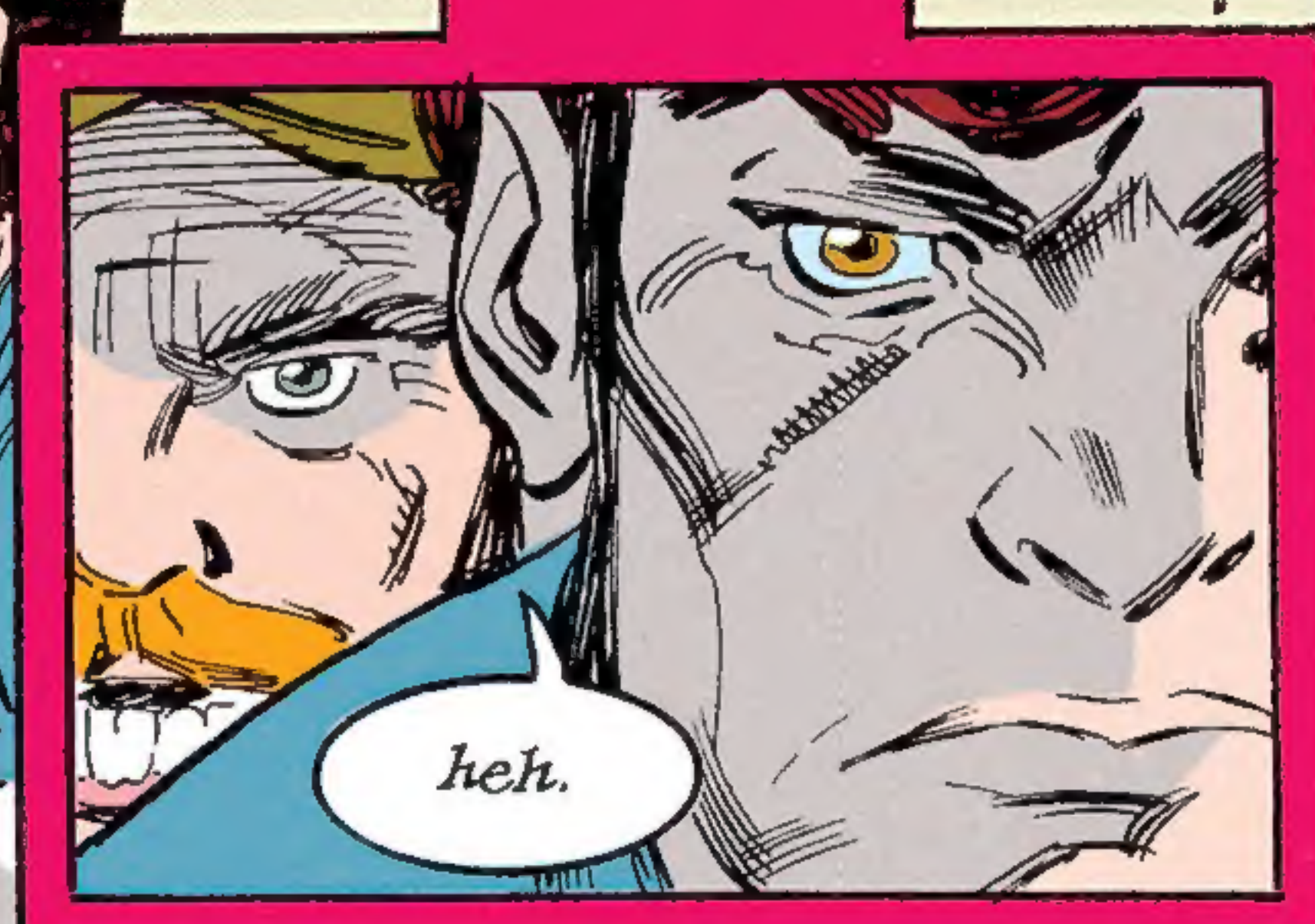


Hah! 'COURSE HE MEANT IT, COOKIE. HE'S MY SON, AND MEANS EVERY WORD.

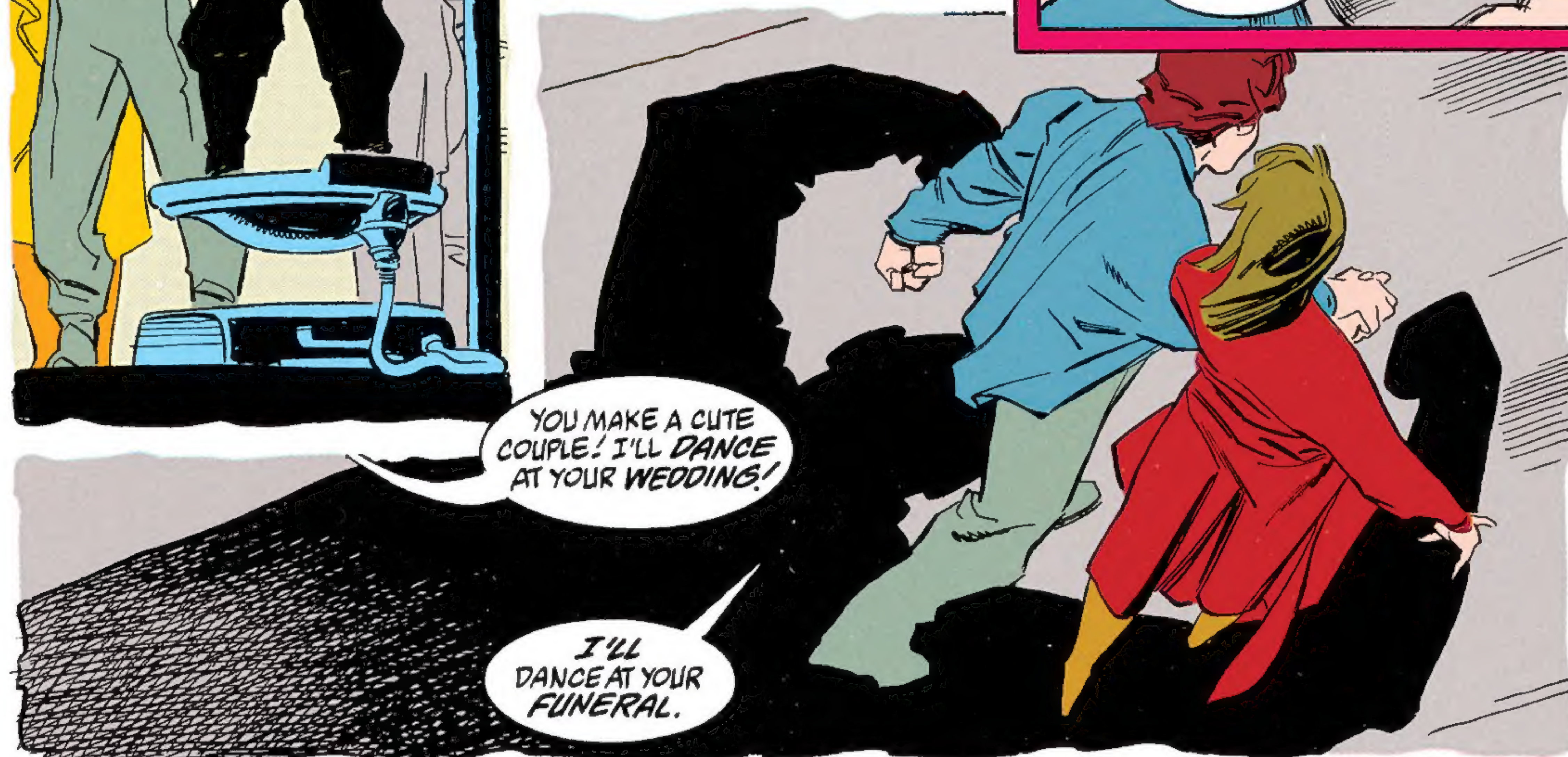


C'MON, BOY. TAKE A SWING AT ME. YOU KNOW YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO.

THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME? Huh? I MEAN, I'M JUST AN OLD MAN!

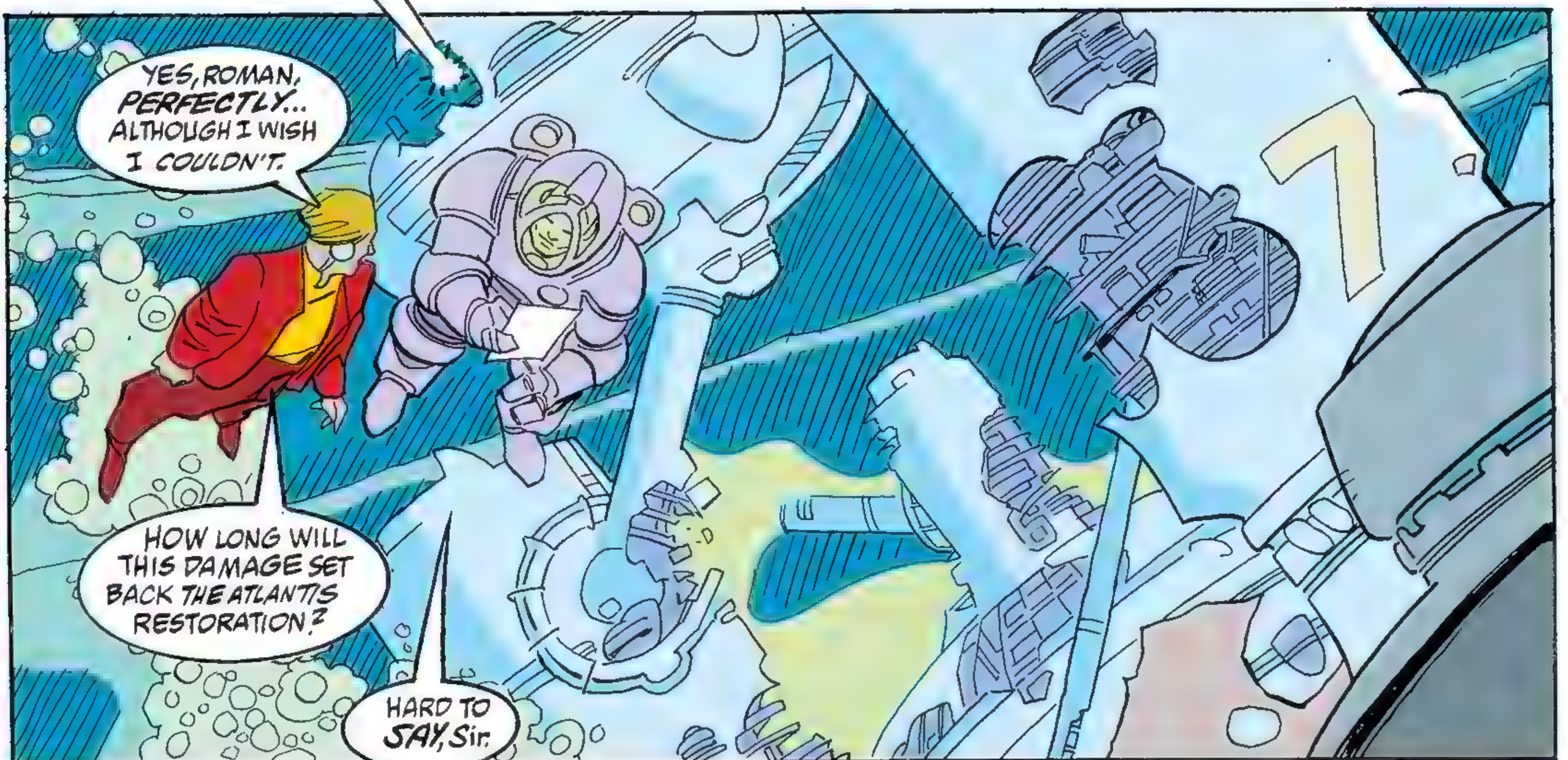
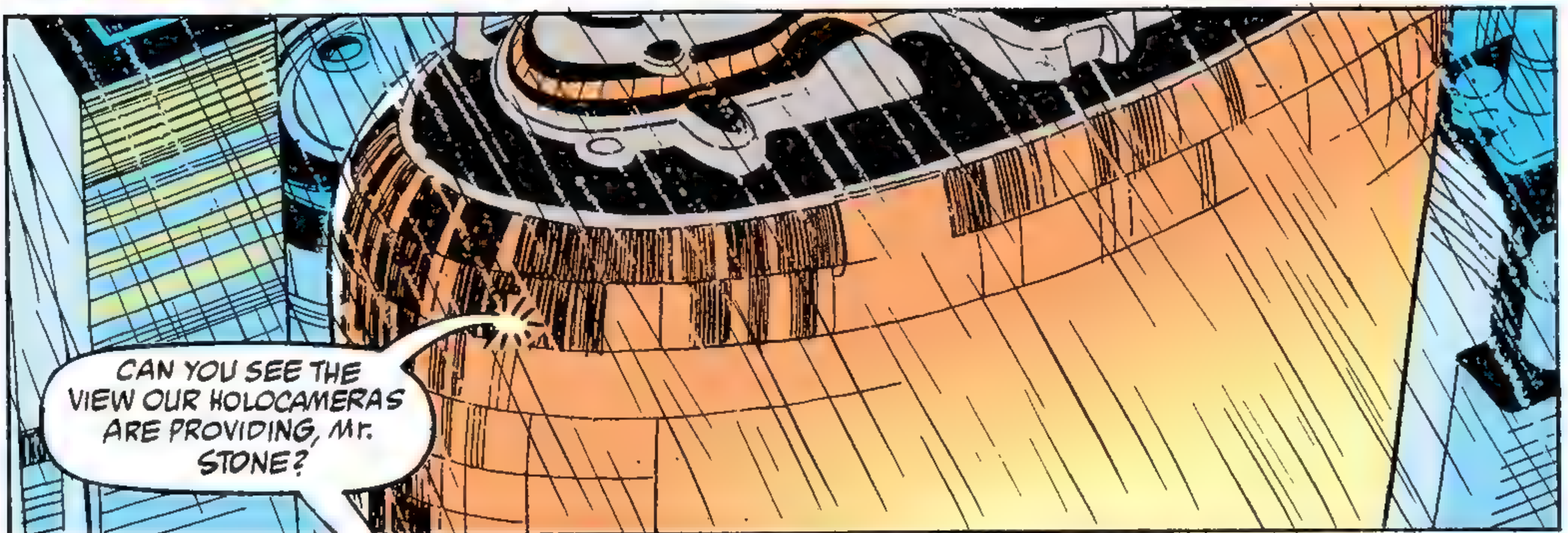
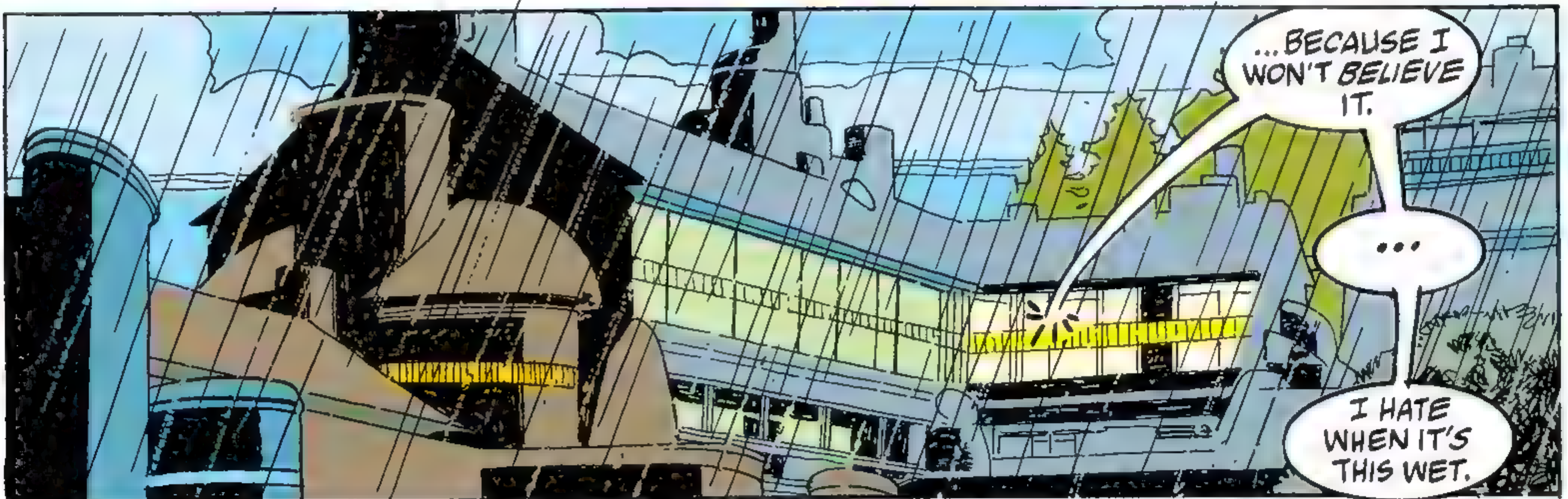
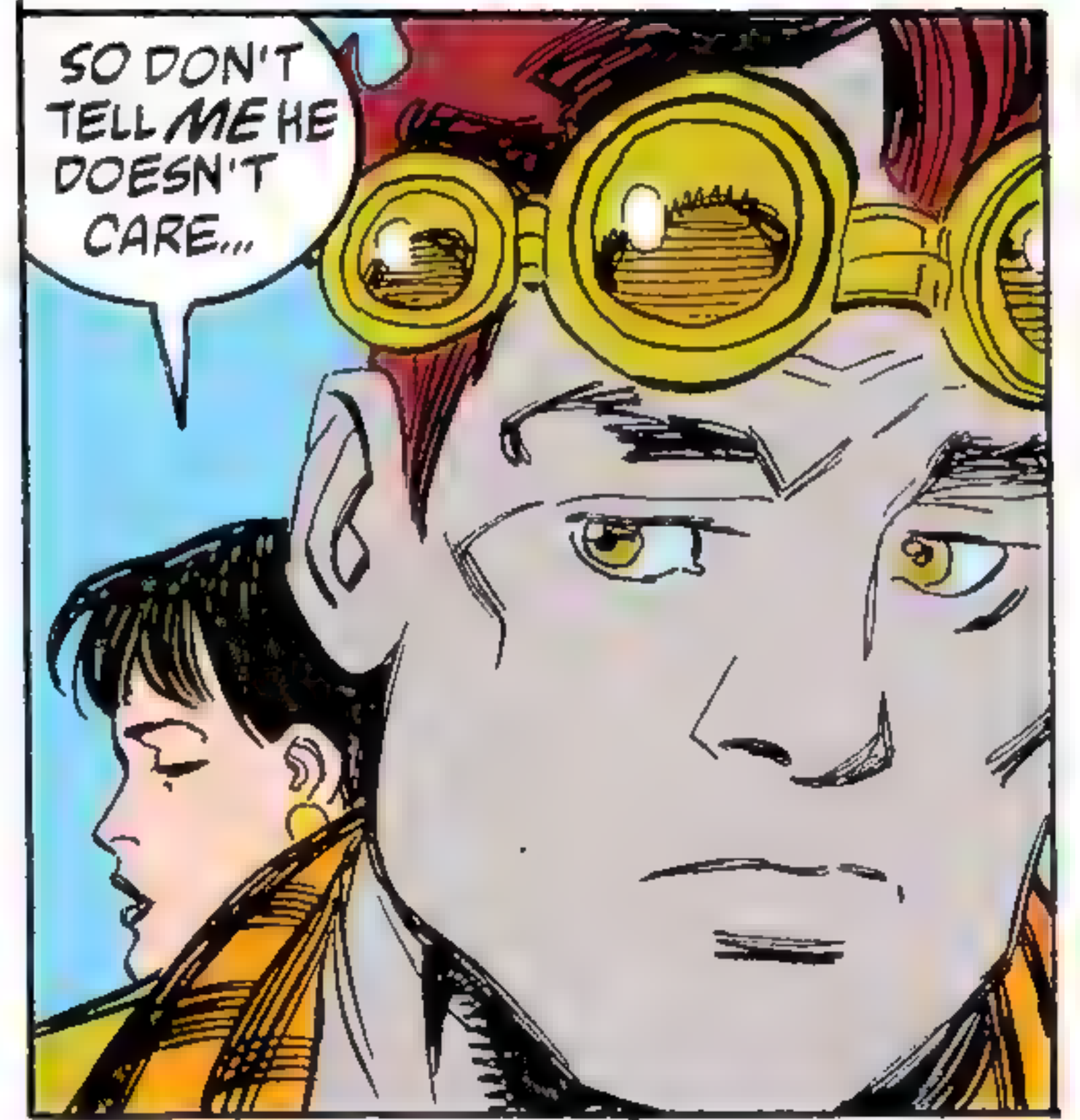
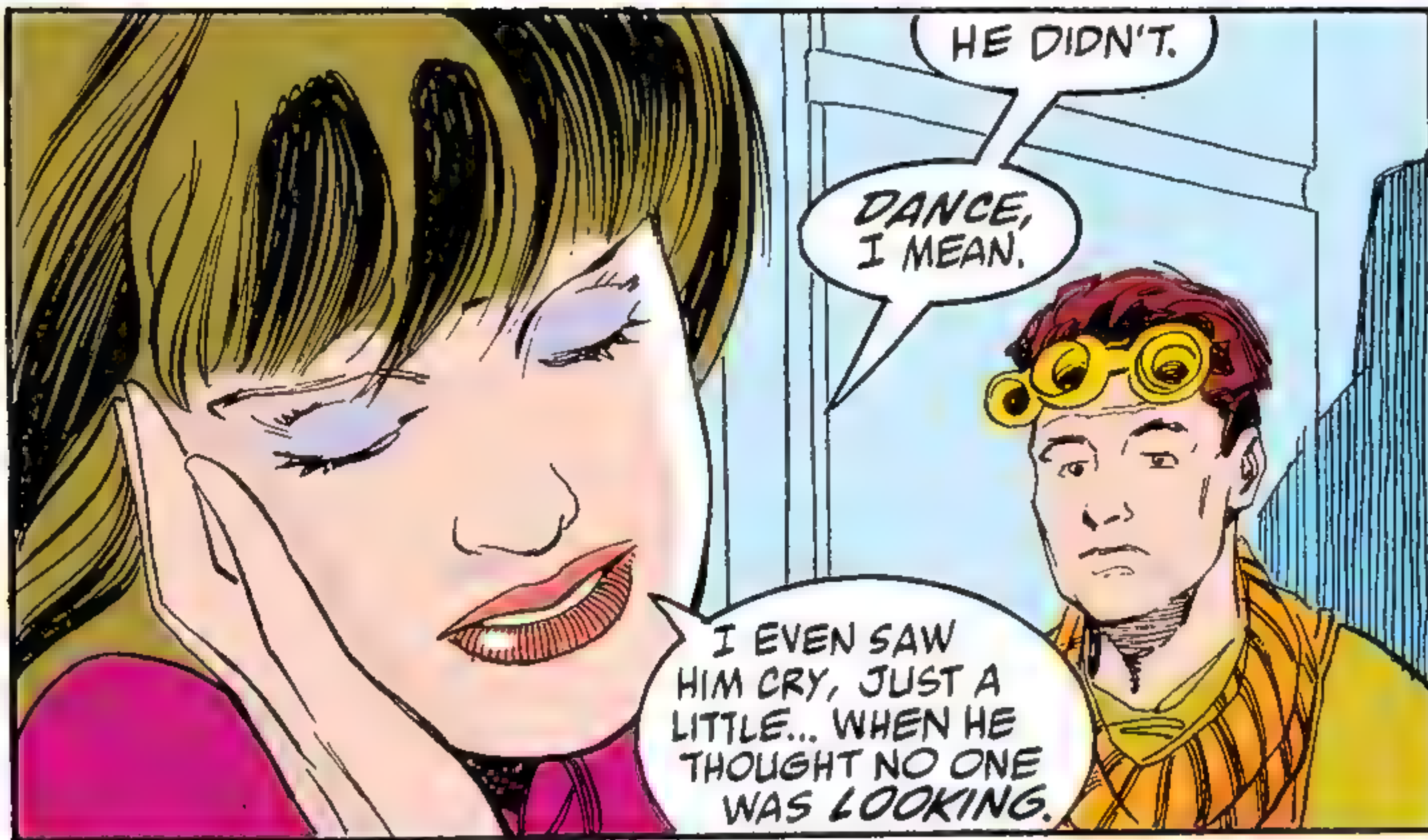


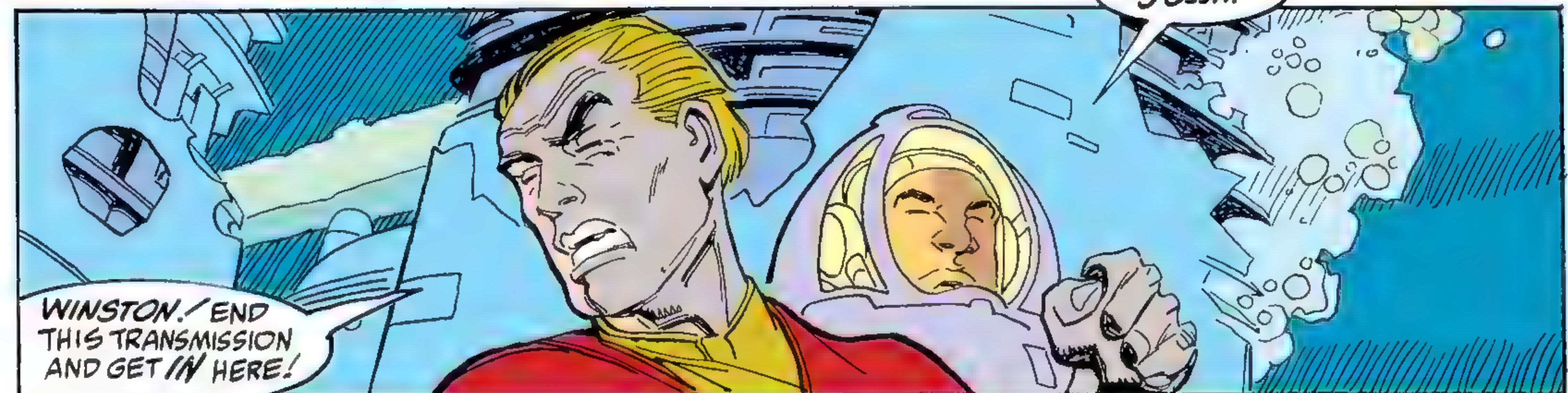
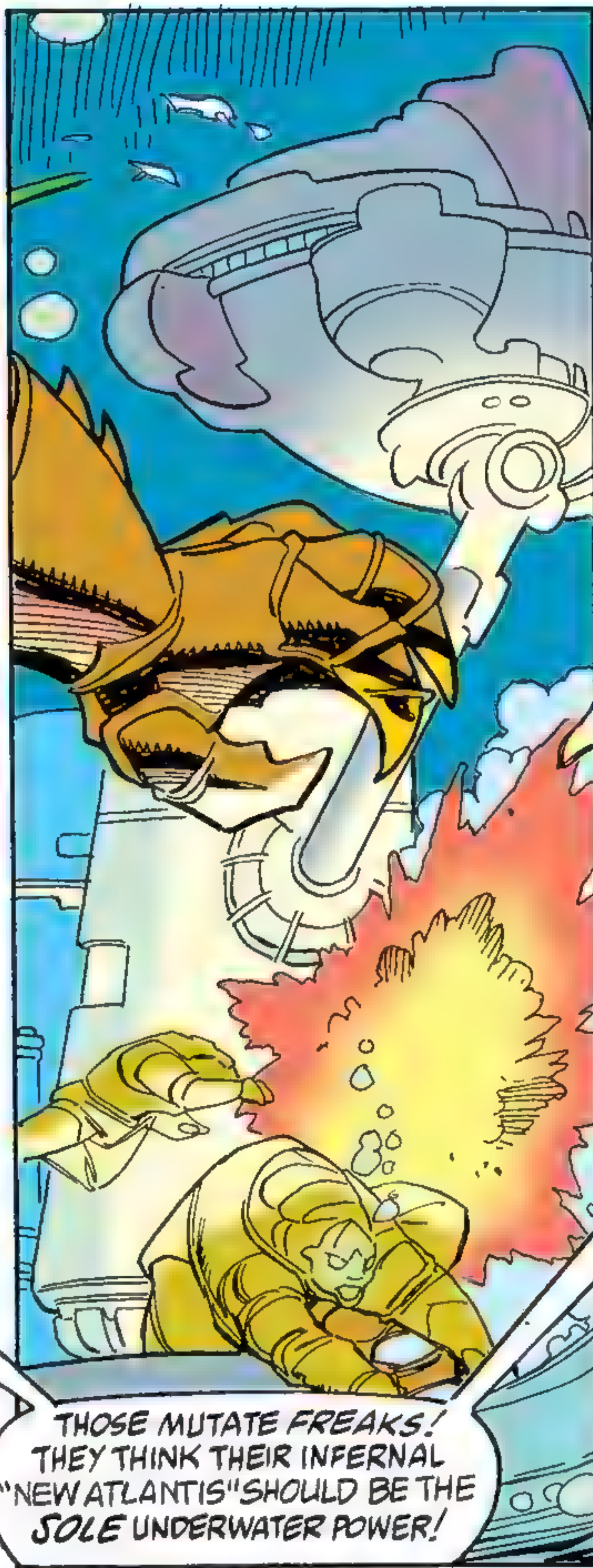
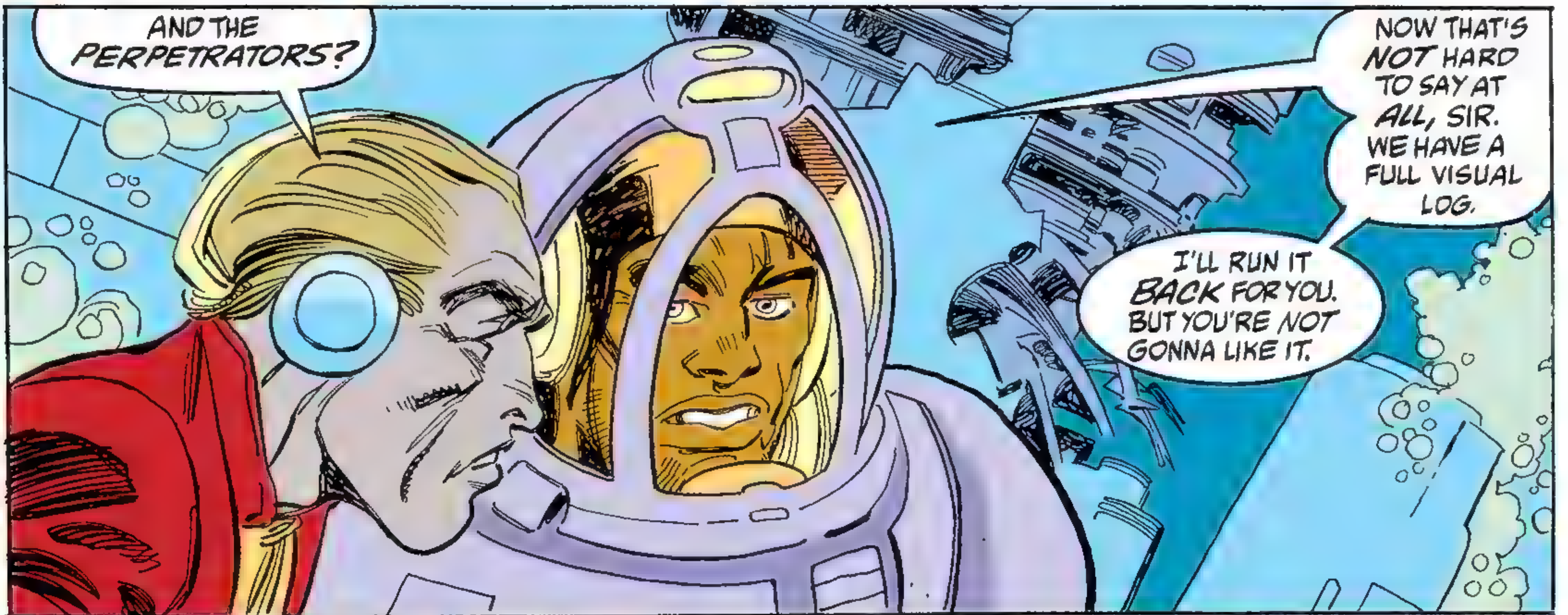
heh.

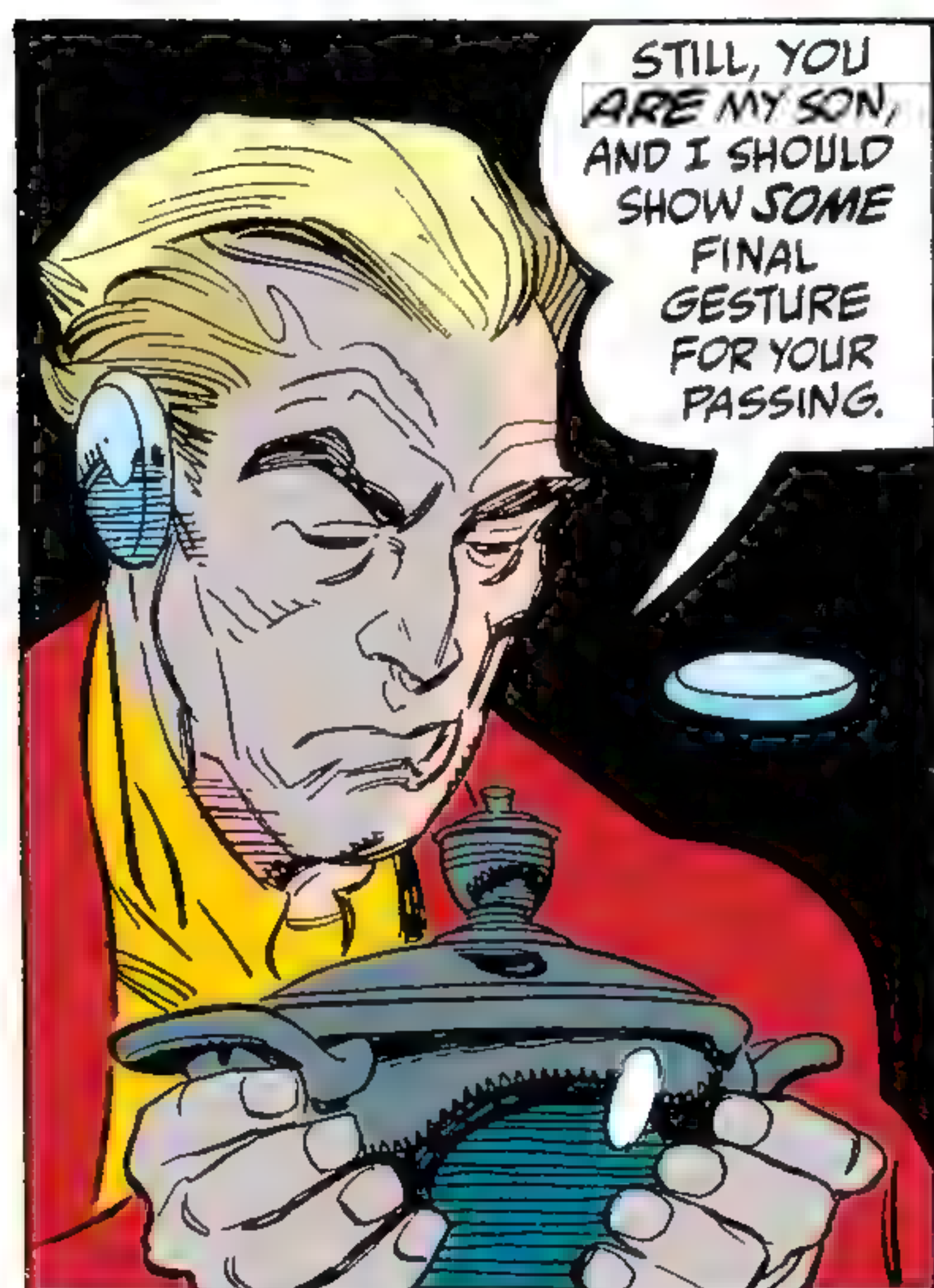
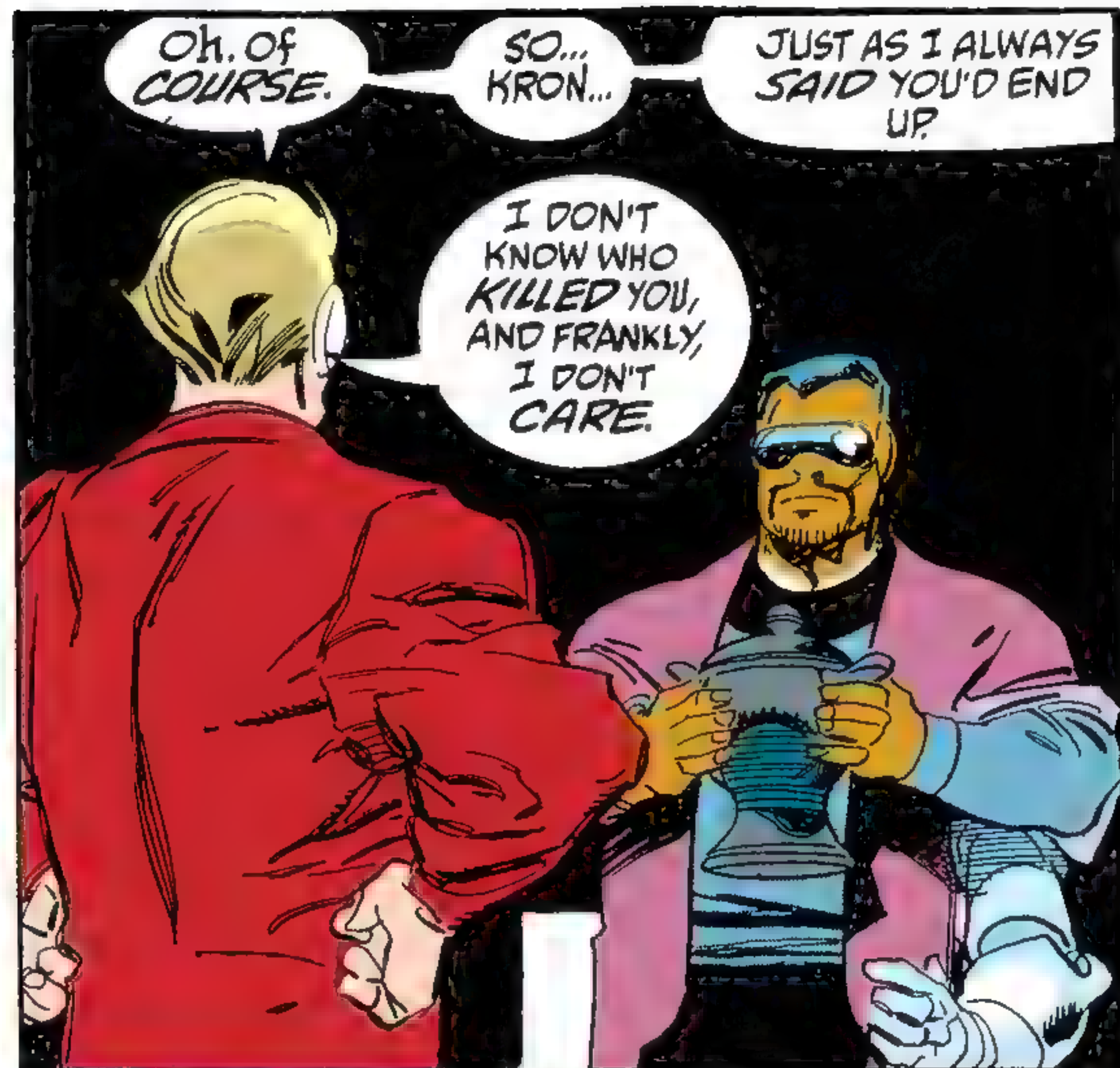
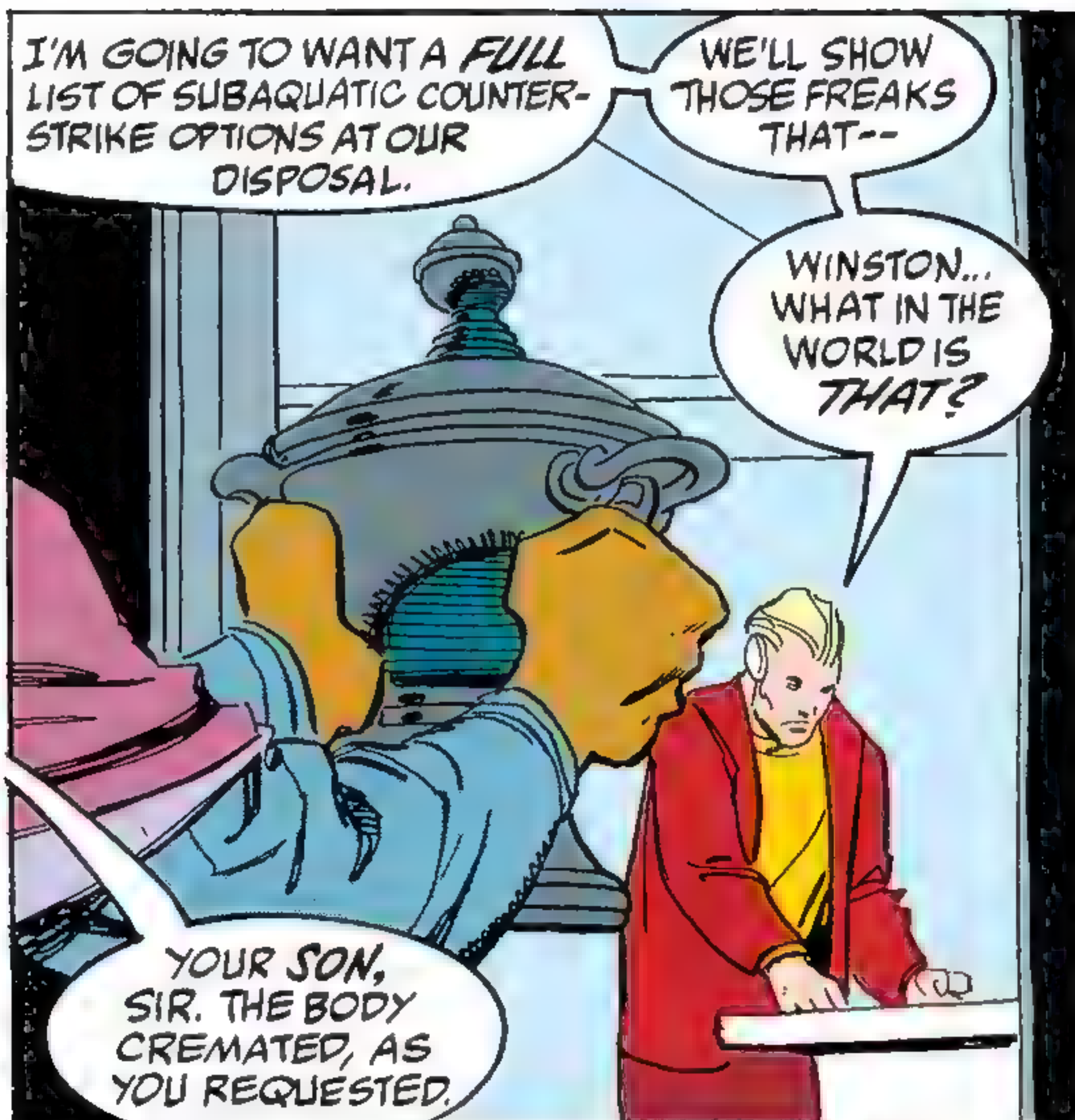


YOU MAKE A CUTE COUPLE! I'LL DANCE AT YOUR WEDDING!

I'LL DANCE AT YOUR FUNERAL.





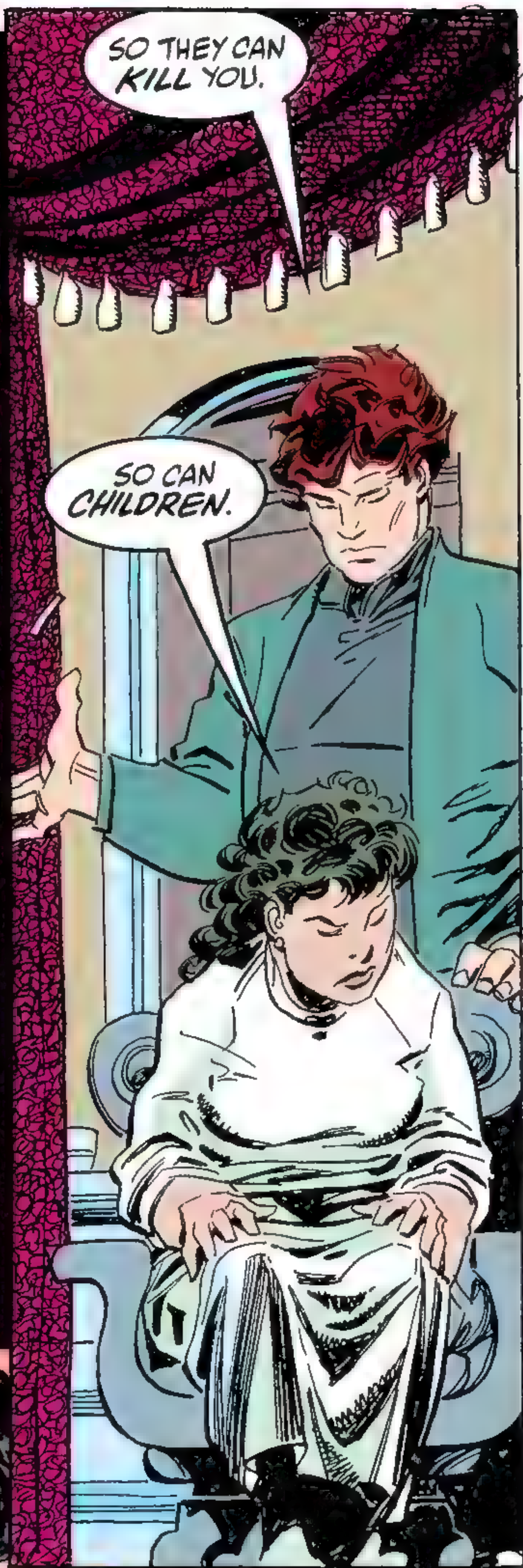




MA!
WHERE
DID YOU
GET
THIS?!

YOU KNOW
CIGARETTES
ARE
ILLEGAL!

SO?



SO THEY CAN
KILL YOU.

SO CAN
CHILDREN.



MA... I'M
SORRY I
HAVEN'T BEEN
VISITING YOU
MORE OFTEN!



LIAR!



OOOKAY.
I'M GLAD I
HAVEN'T BEEN
VISITING YOU
MORE OFTEN!



FRESH!



FEEL BETTER, CRAZY LADY?

LOOK, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

NOTHING.



NO, MA! NOT AGAIN! WE GO THROUGH THIS *ALL* THE TIME, AND YOU PLAY THESE GAMES AND I'M TIRED OF IT! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT DOES TO GABRI? TO ME?

IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU. YOU'RE COMPLETELY SELF-CENTERED

THAT'S NOT TRUE.



OH, YES IT IS. I KEEP WAITING FOR YOU TO CHANGE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WHY CAN'T YOU BE A REAL CARING MAN, LIKE...

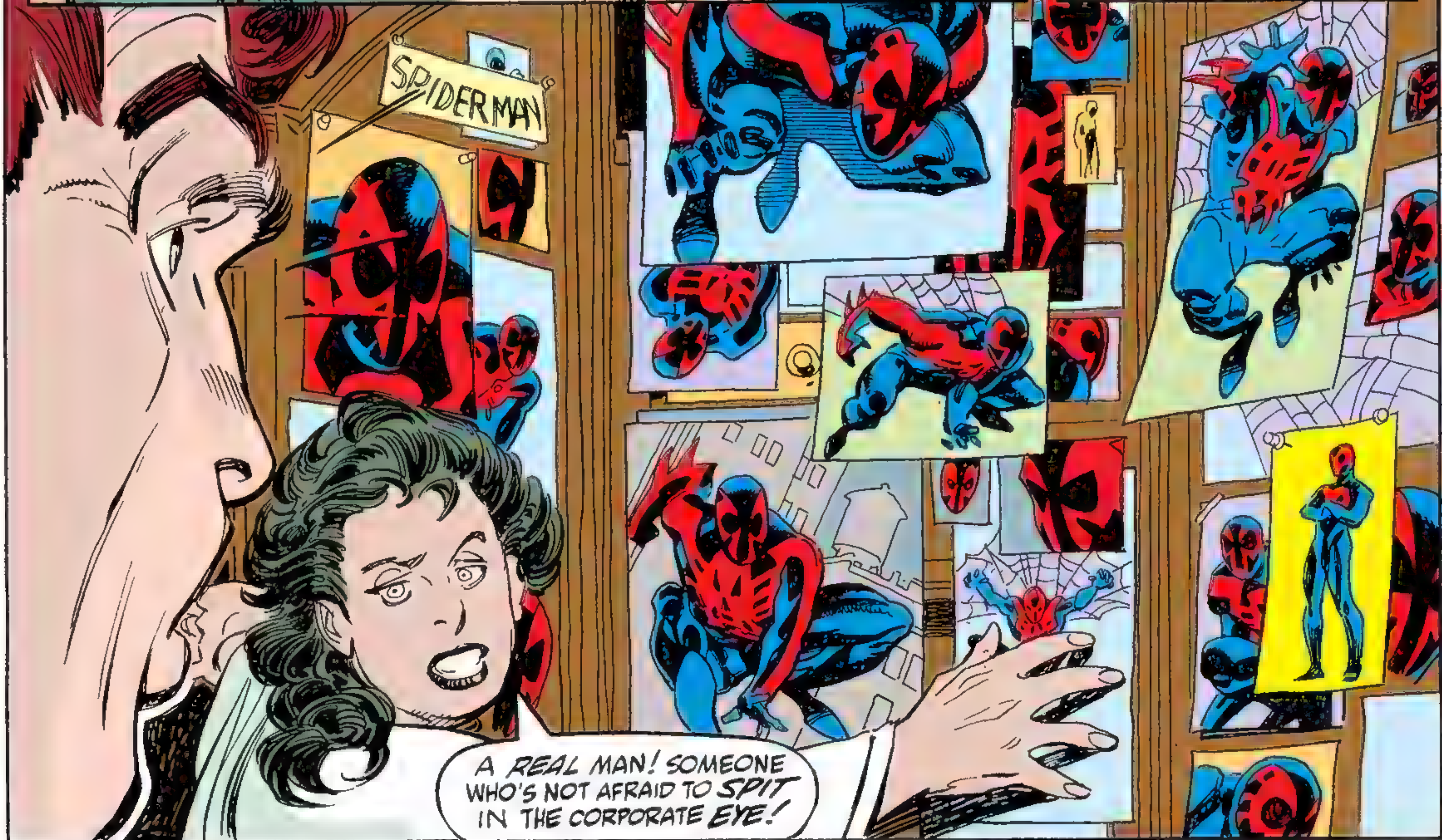


LIKE WHO, MA? LIKE GABRIEL? YOU GOING TO START TELLING ME AGAIN ABOUT HOW LOVING HE IS, AND...

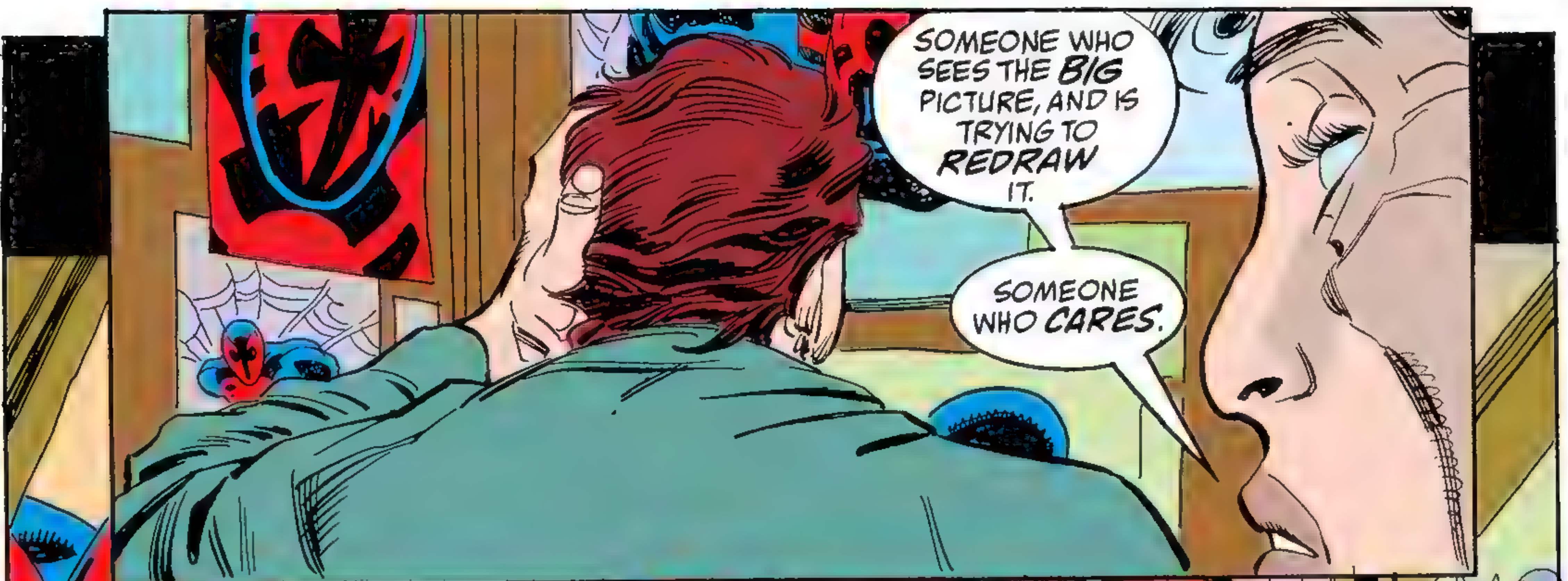
NO, BECAUSE EVERY TIME I DO, YOU JUST MAKE FUN OF HIM. AND HE'S SUCH A GENTLE SOUL.



BUT HERE'S SOMEONE YOU WOULDN'T DARE MAKE FUN OF!



A REAL MAN! SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO SPIT IN THE CORPORATE EYE!



SOMEONE WHO
SEES THE **BIG**
PICTURE, AND IS
TRYING TO
REDRAW
IT.

SOMEONE
WHO **CARES.**



AND WHAT IF HE'S **NOT**
LIKE THAT, HUH? EVER
THINK OF **THAT?**

MAYBE HE'S JUST...
JUST SOMEONE WHO GOT
CAUGHT UP IN THINGS.
SOMEONE WHO...

IF HE **NEVER** PUT THE COSTUME
ON AGAIN, HE'D BE PERFECTLY HAPPY
TO GO BACK TO HIS LIFE. WHAT IF...?



**DON'T
START!**

DON'T START
TRYING TO TEAR
HIM DOWN, TOO!
HE'S EVERYTHING
YOU **AREN'T!**



OH, YEAH?
OH, YEAH,
CRAZY LADY?

YEAH!

WELL, TRY
THIS ON,
CRAZY LADY!



I'M SPIDER-MAN!
ME! YOUR SON!



ALL I EVER WANTED
WAS TO BE IMPORTANT.

WORKING FOR ALCHEMAX WAS
DOING THE RIGHT THING... BUT
I WAS IMPORTANT TO ALL THE
WRONG PEOPLE.

BEING SPIDER-MAN
IS THE WRONG THING... LAW-WISE,
HEALTH-WISE... BUT HE'S IMPOR-
TANT TO ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE.
THE PEOPLE I'VE BEEN WORKING
SO HARD AT IGNORING.

WHEN I PUT ON THAT COSTUME...
I START THINKING AND ACTING
DIFFERENTLY. FACE IT... "SPIDER-
MAN" IS STARTING TO TAKE OVER
WHEN THE MASK GOES ON.

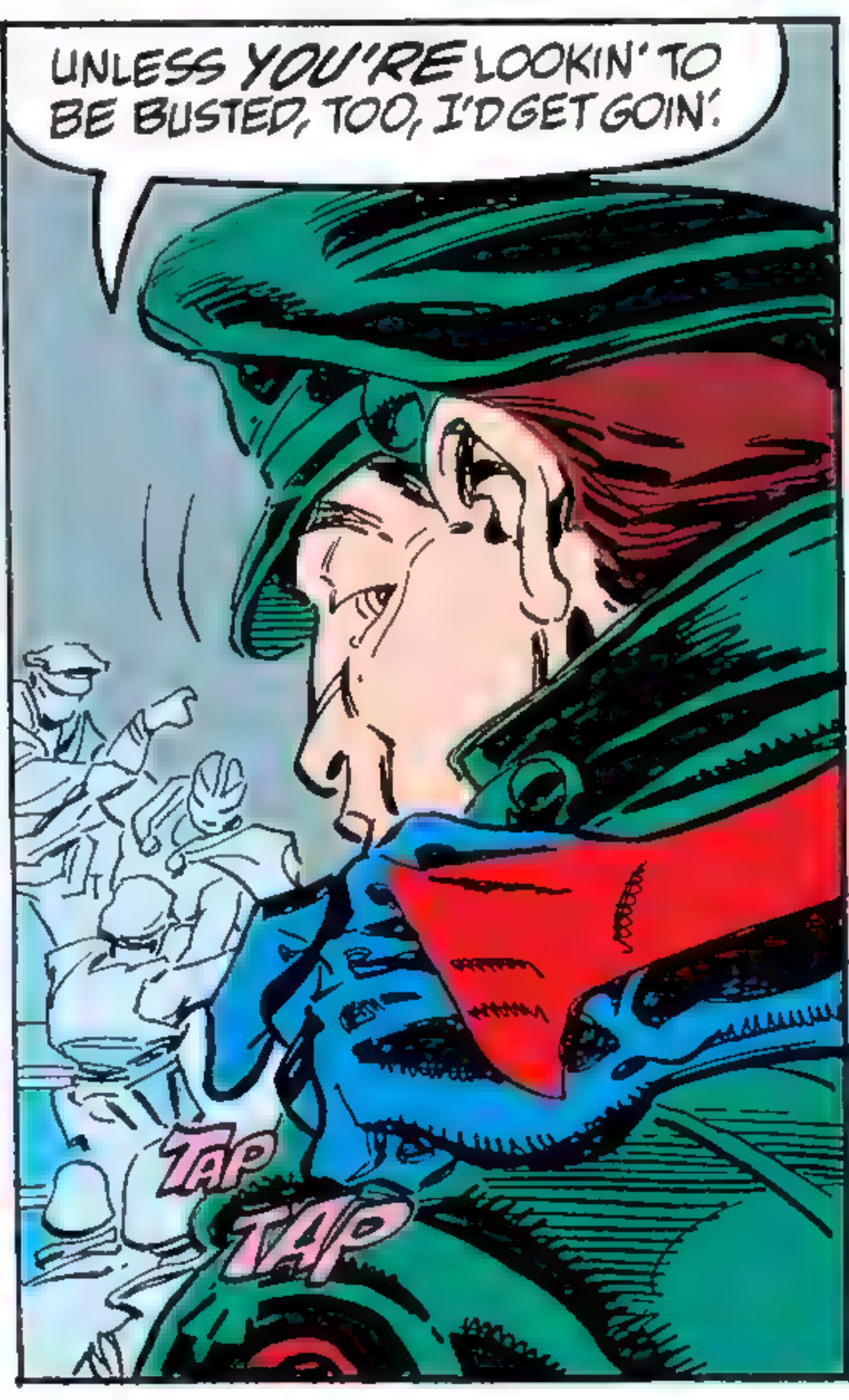
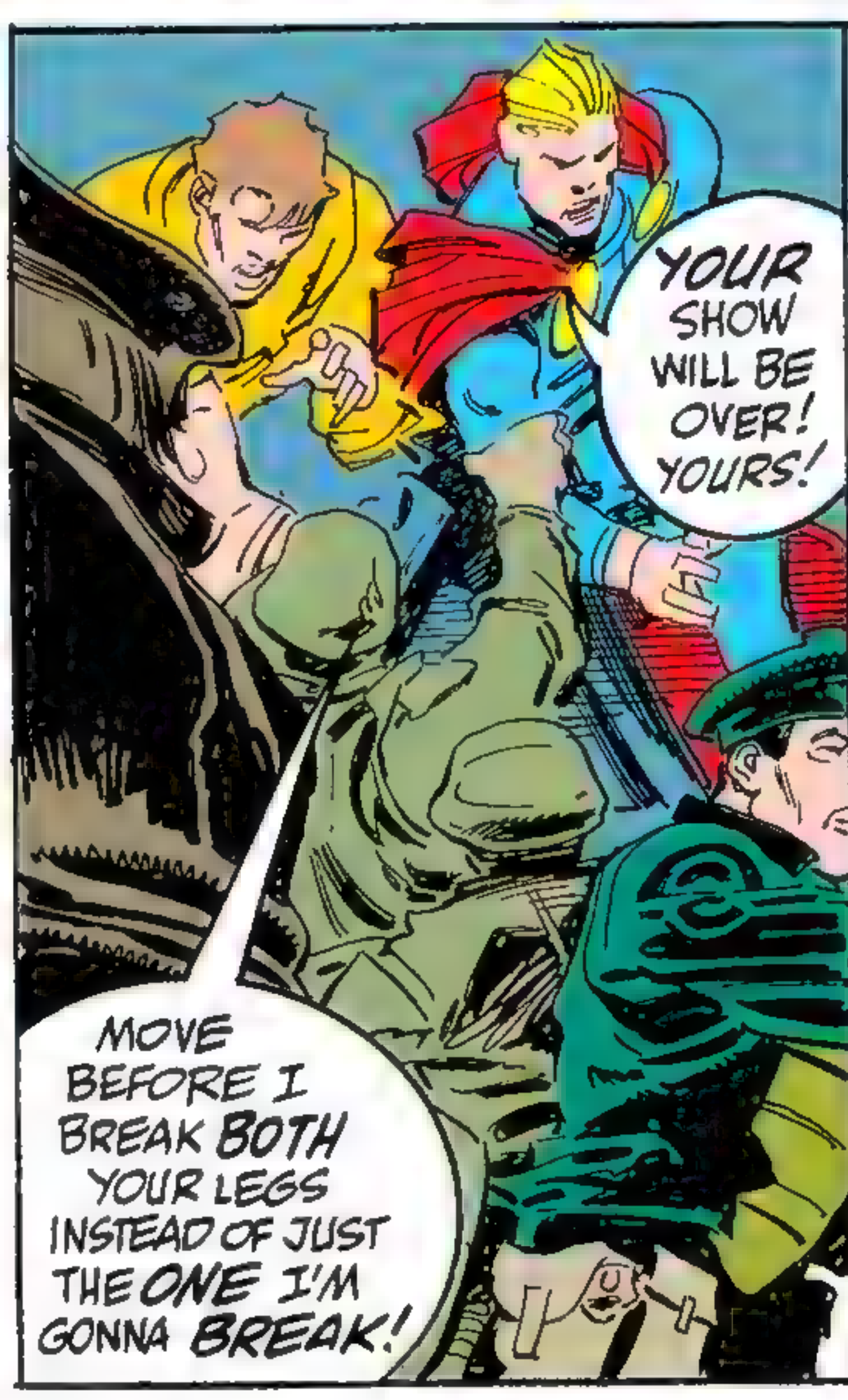
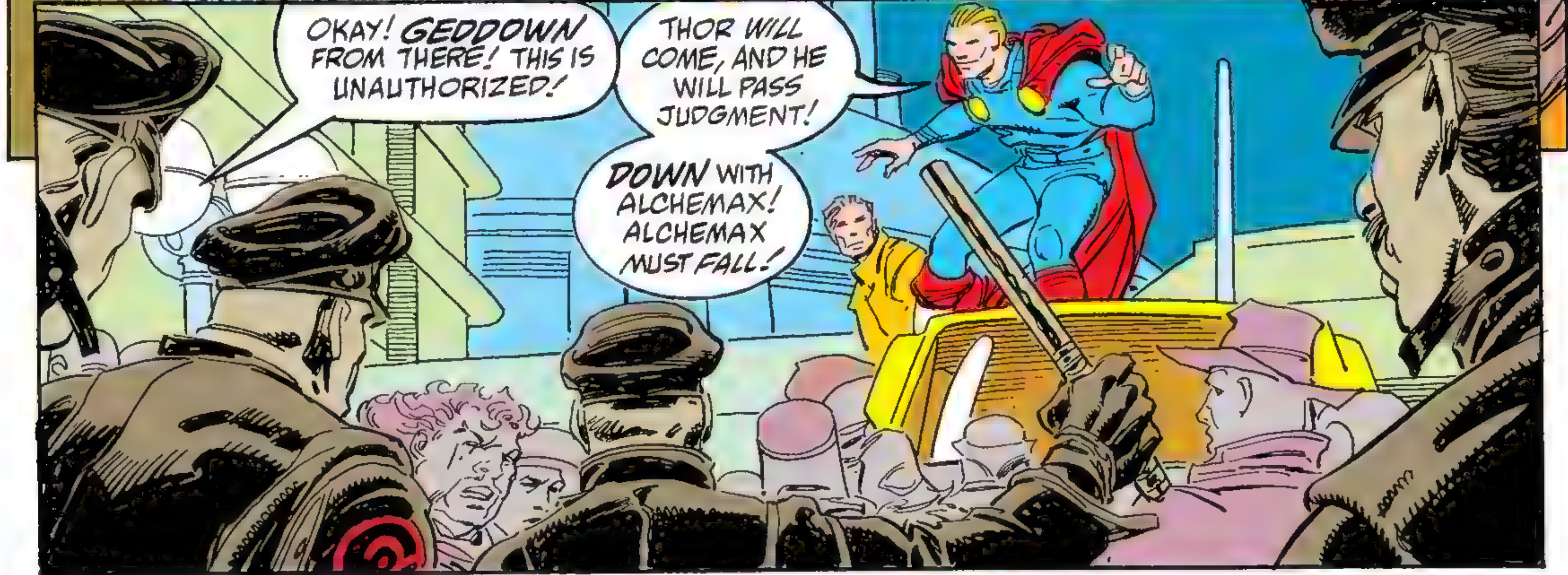
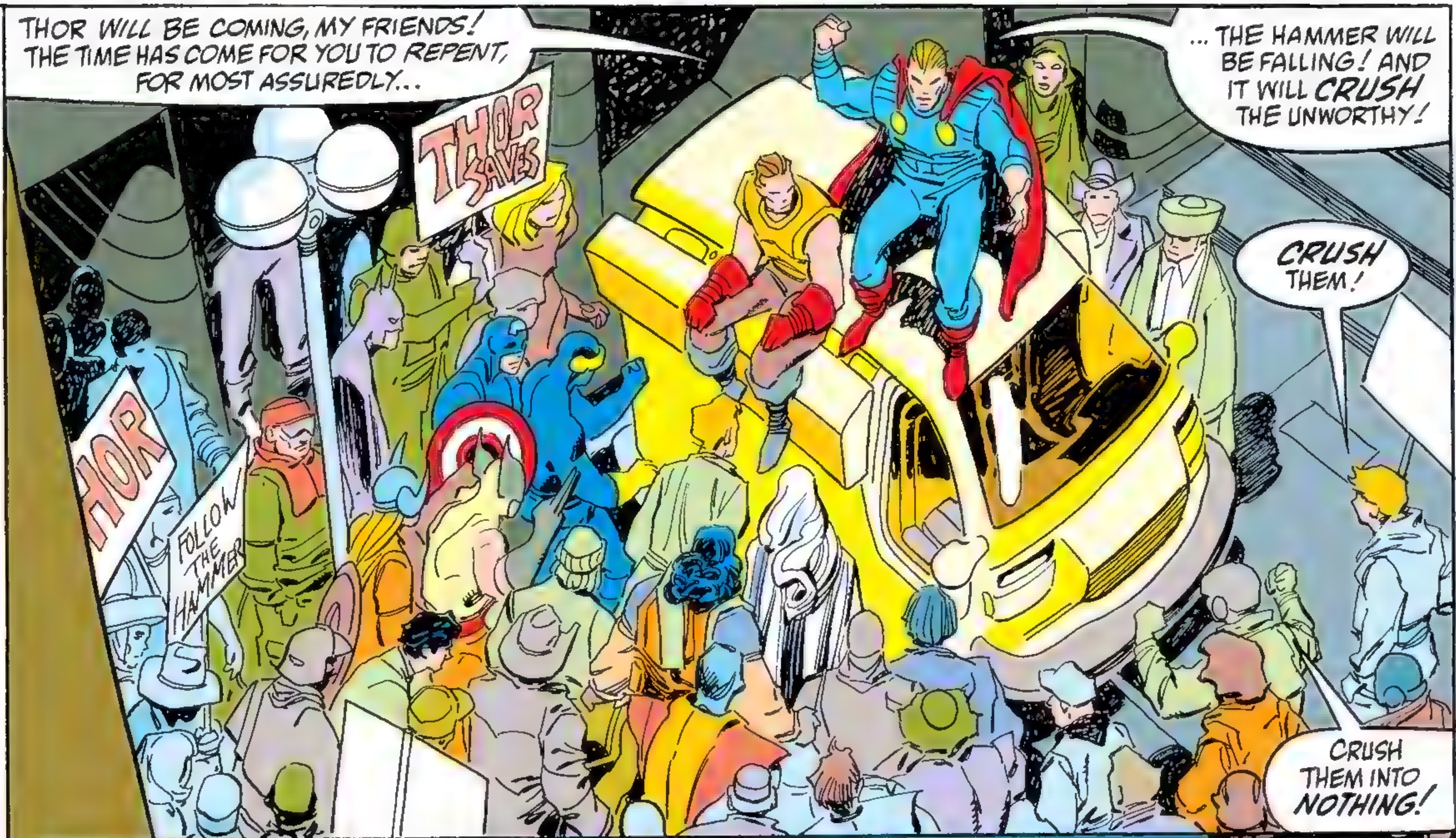
IT WAS MIGUEL-IN-THE-COSTUME
WHO SAVED THE SPECIALIST... AND
ALMOST GOT KILLED IN REPAYMENT.
AND WHEN THE VULTURE WAS
FALLING... SPIDER-MAN,
HAVING LEARNED THE
LESSON, LET HIM.

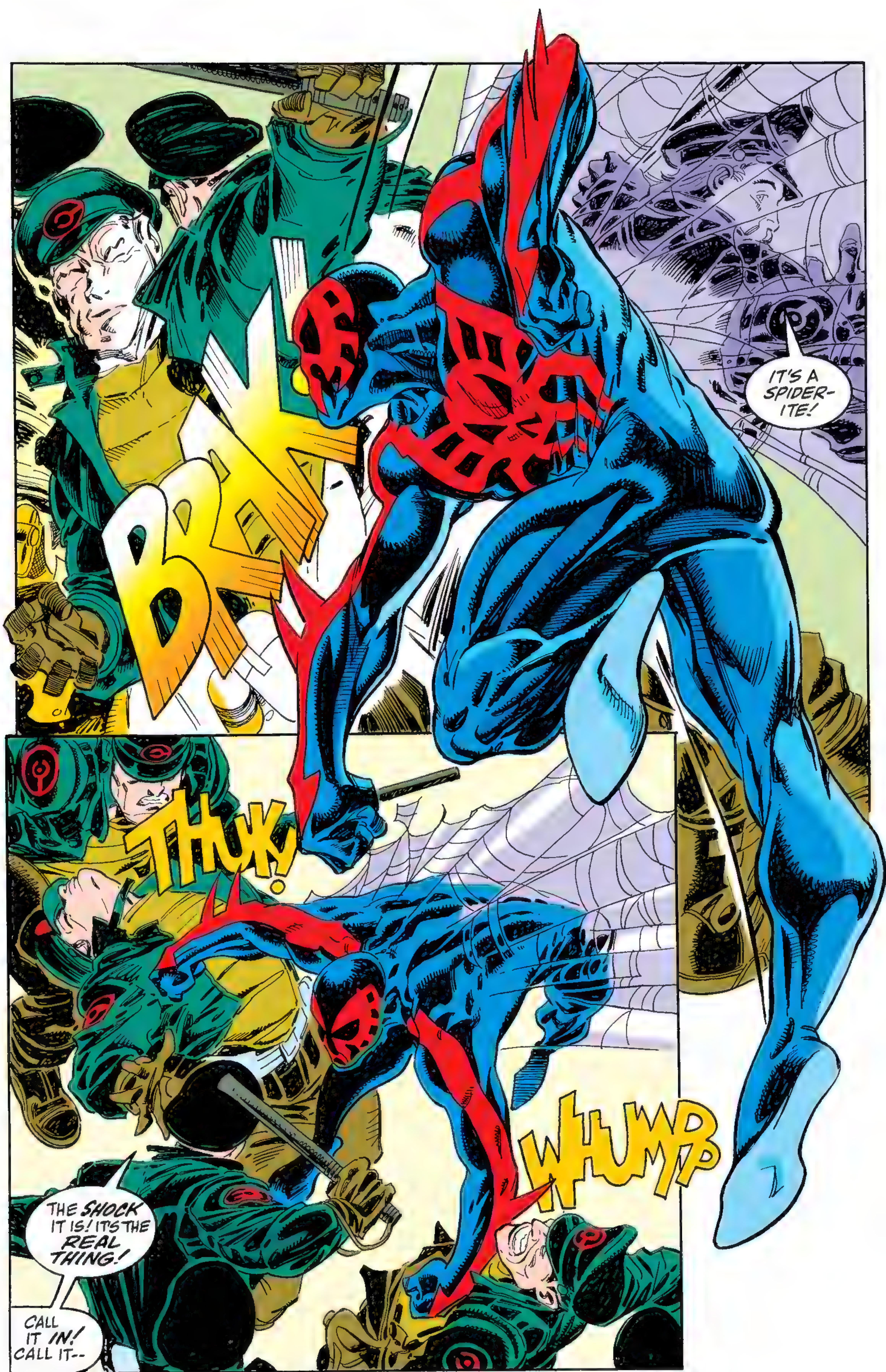
MIGUEL WENT DOWNTOWN,
BUT SPIDER-MAN CAME BACK UP.
AND SINCE "MIGUEL" ISN'T THE
LEAST BIT SORRY THE VULTURE
FELL... IT'S LOOKING LIKE
SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T NECES-
SARILY VANISH WHEN THE
MASK COMES OFF.

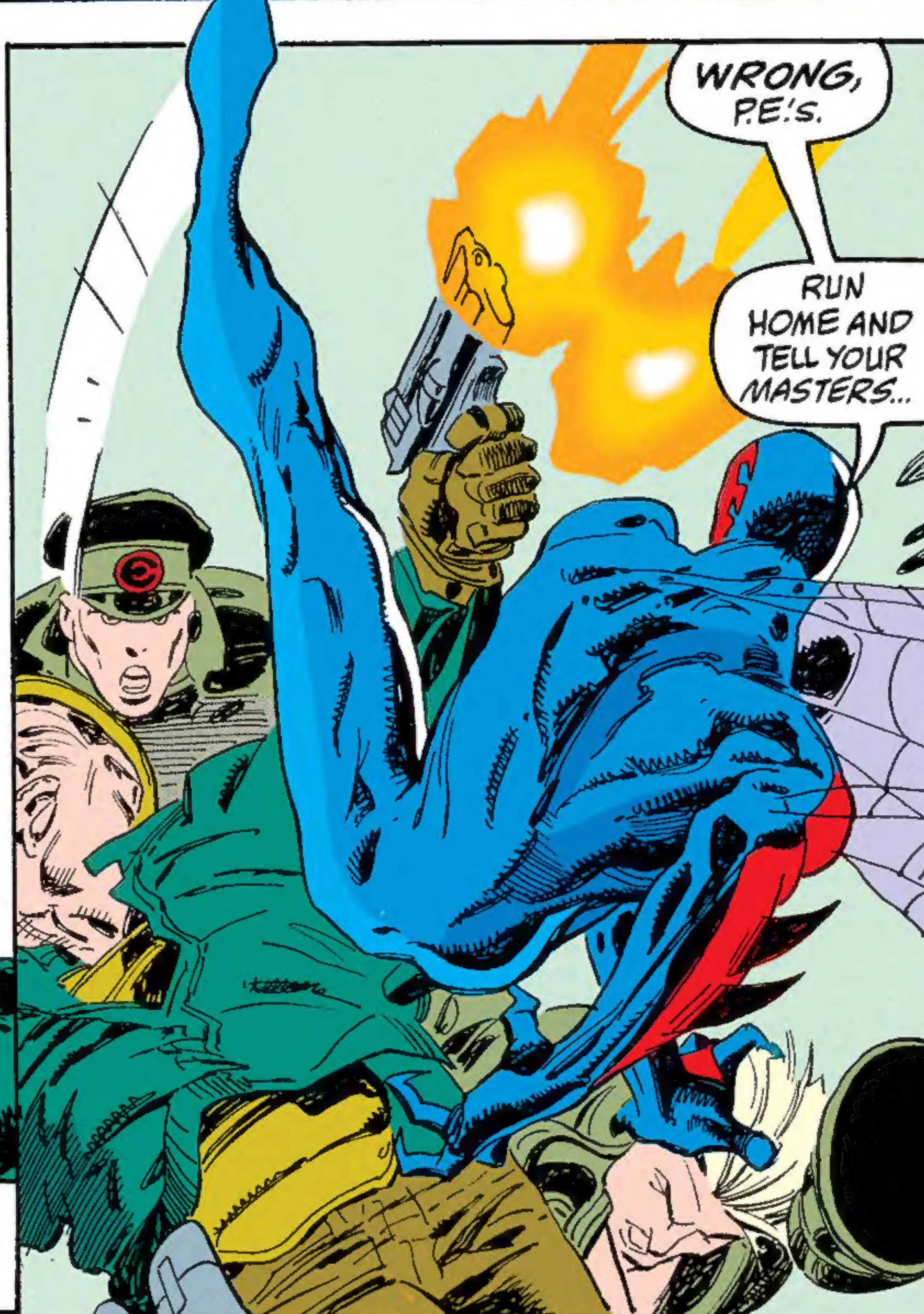
THE WORLD WE'RE
LIVING IN... GABRI SAW
IT. KASEY SAW IT. EVEN
THE CRAZY LADY
SAW IT.

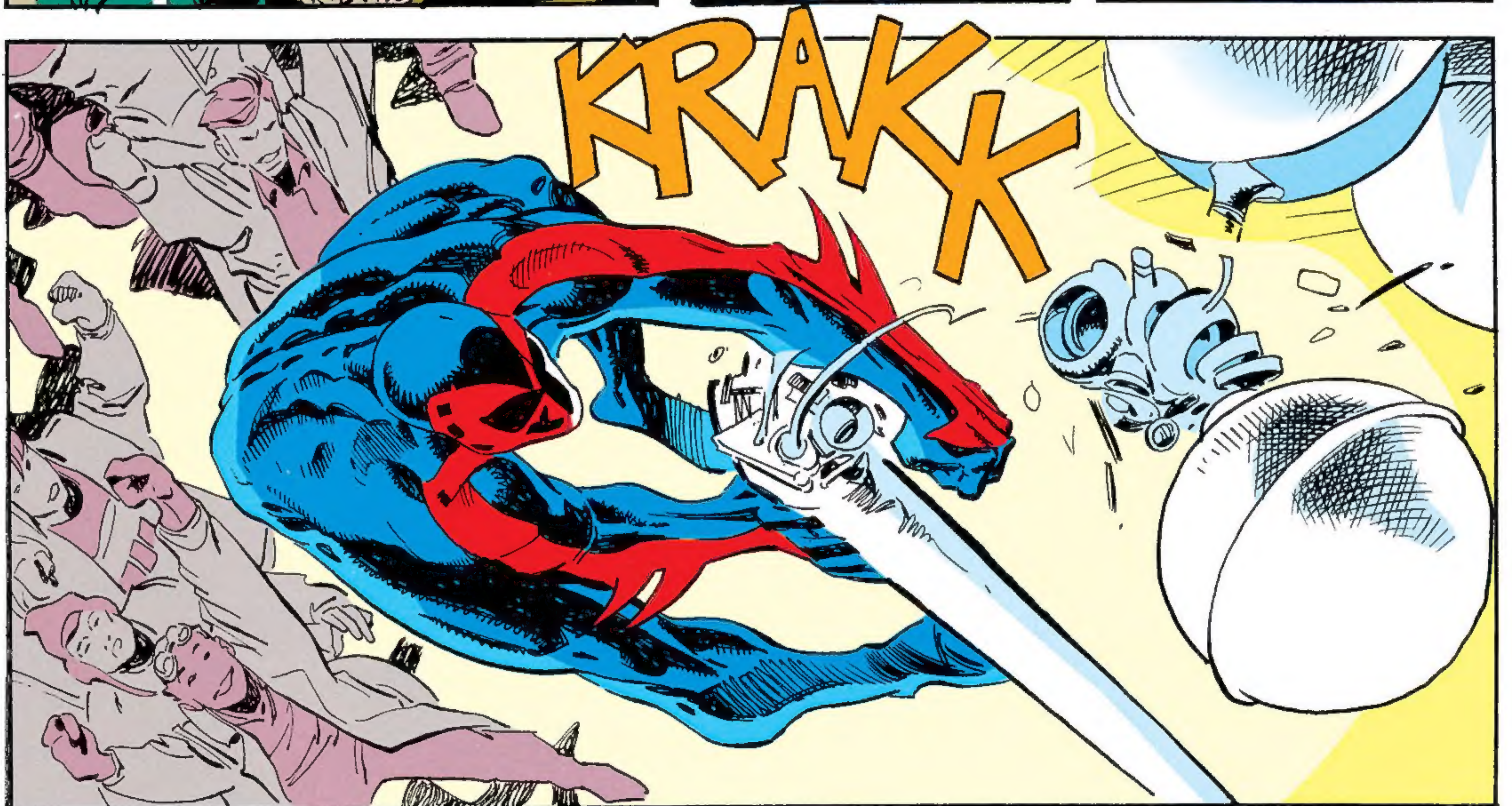
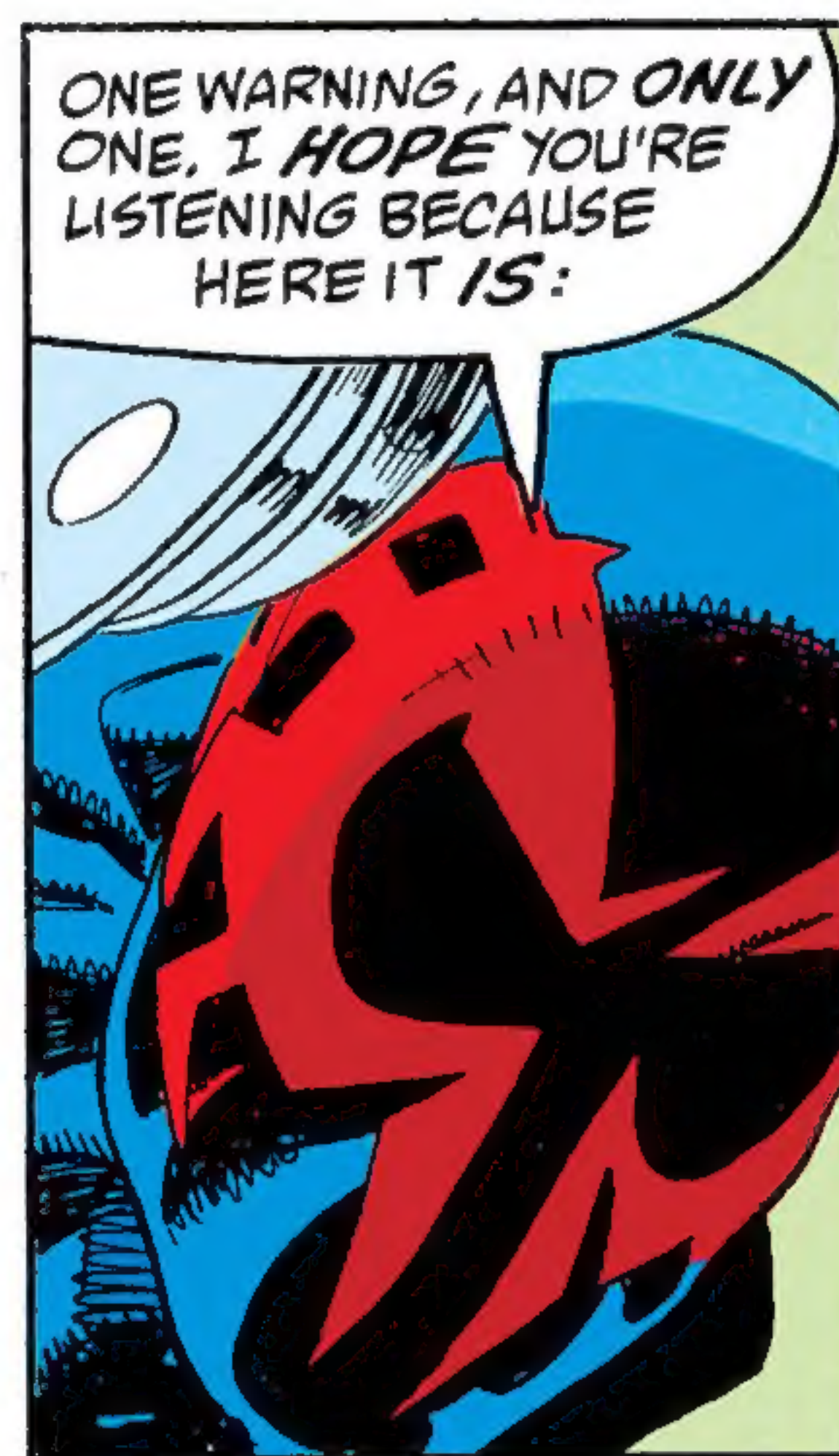
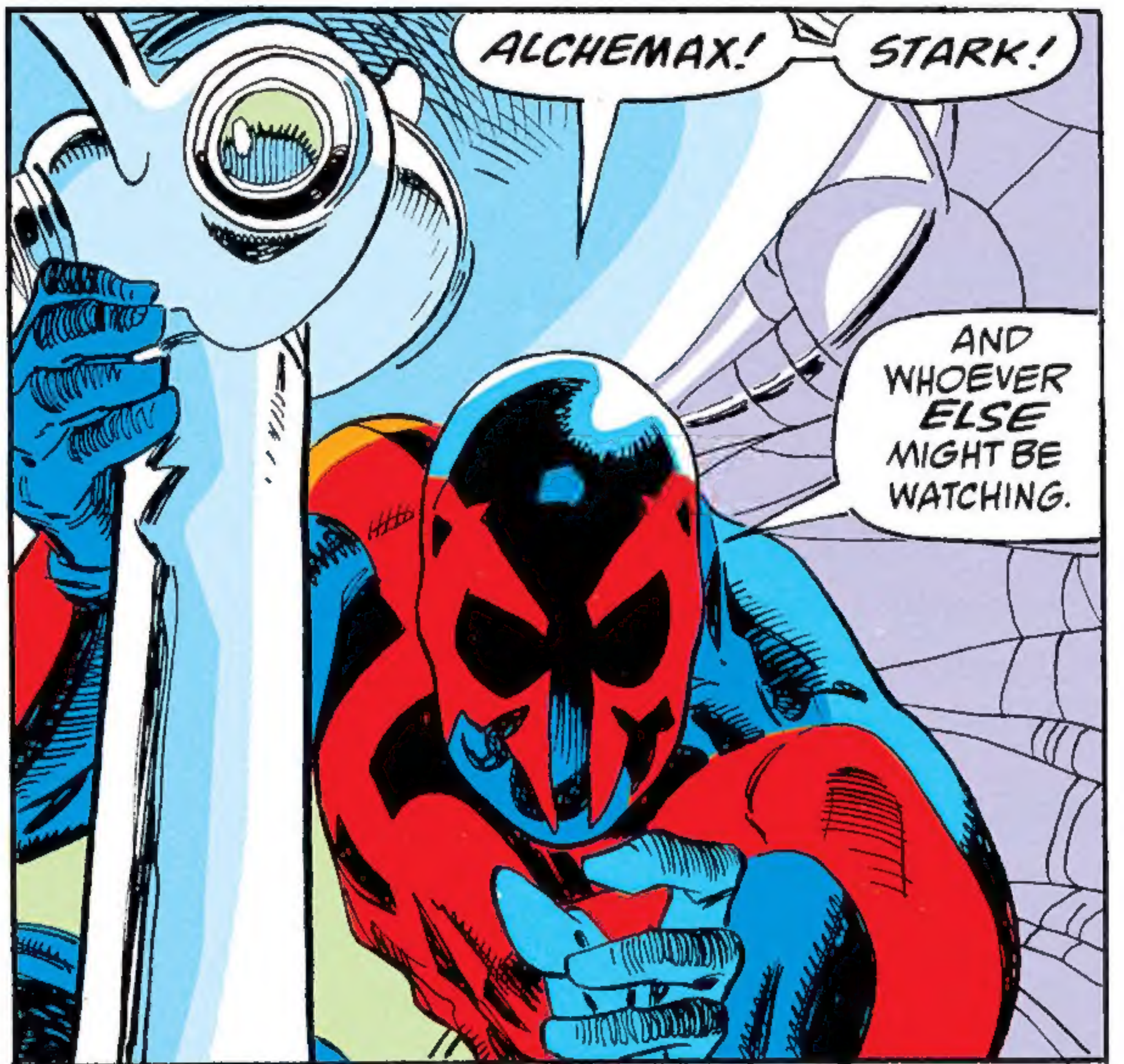
IF I'M SO BLASTED BRIGHT,
WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT UNTIL I LOOKED
THROUGH SPIDER-MAN'S
EYES?

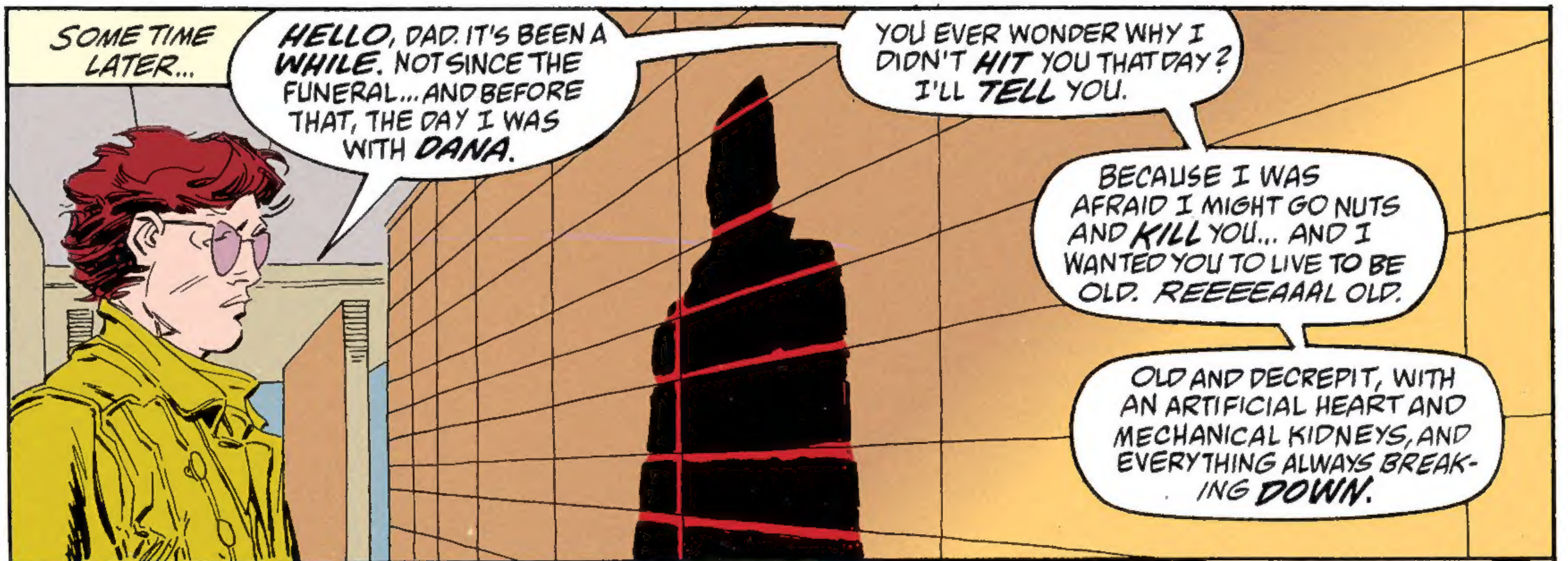
AND NOW THAT I
HAVE... DO I FACE
IT? OR TURN AWAY
FROM IT?











SOME TIME LATER...

HELLO, DAD. IT'S BEEN A WHILE. NOT SINCE THE FUNERAL... AND BEFORE THAT, THE DAY I WAS WITH DANA.

YOU EVER WONDER WHY I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT DAY? I'LL TELL YOU.

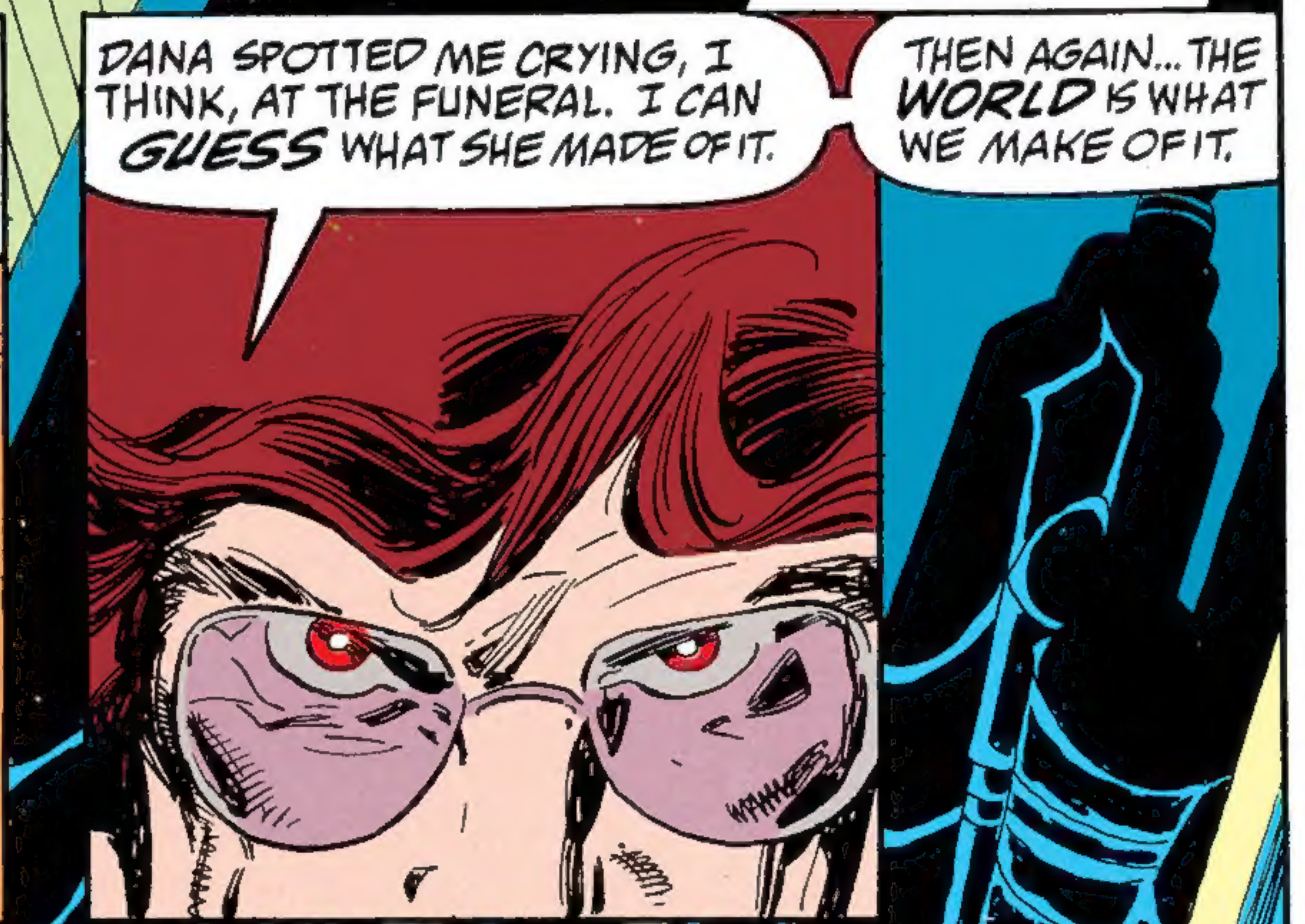
BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT GO NUTS AND KILL YOU... AND I WANTED YOU TO LIVE TO BE OLD. REEEEEAAAL OLD.

OLD AND DECREPIT, WITH AN ARTIFICIAL HEART AND MECHANICAL KIDNEYS, AND EVERYTHING ALWAYS BREAKING DOWN.



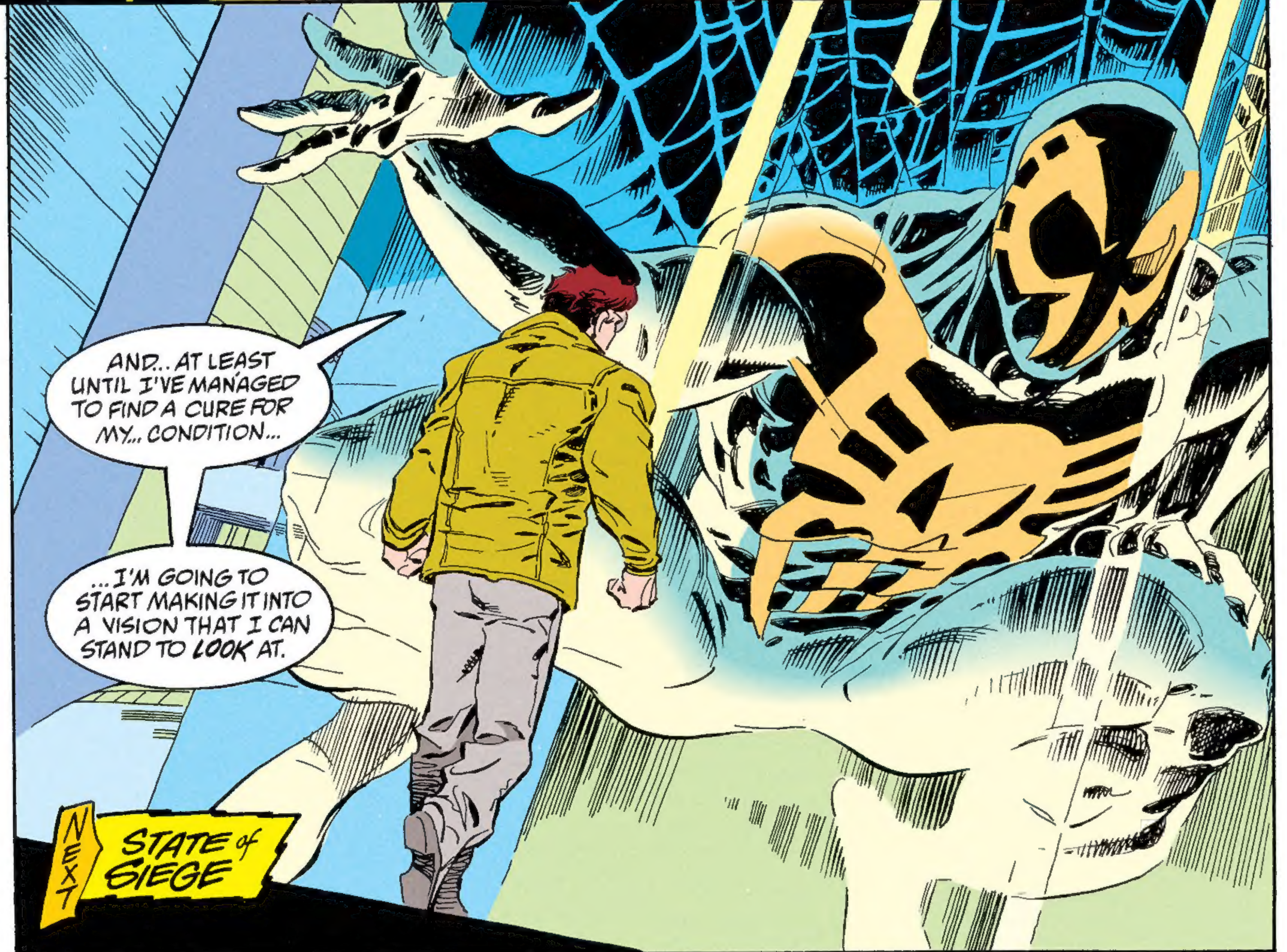
I WANTED YOU TO SUFFER EVERY POSSIBLE WEAKNESS OLD AGE COULD INFLICT.

AND INSTEAD YOU UPPED AND DIED AND WRECKED THE PLAN.



DANA SPOTTED ME CRYING, I THINK, AT THE FUNERAL. I CAN GUESS WHAT SHE MADE OF IT.

THEN AGAIN... THE WORLD IS WHAT WE MAKE OF IT.



AND... AT LEAST UNTIL I'VE MANAGED TO FIND A CURE FOR MY... CONDITION...

...I'M GOING TO START MAKING IT INTO A VISION THAT I CAN STAND TO LOOK AT.

NEXT
STATE of GIEGE



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O
N
S